

# Easement

HO-43

"Belmont"

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Public

## Description:

"Belmont" is set well back on the road from Elibank Road, and consists of a roughcast brick house, stone barn, stone smokehouse, and frame pump house. The house is set on a rise with a terrace in front of it and another terrace behind it, and faces southeast. The house is a one and one half-story, five-bay by three-bay center block with lower one and one half-story three-bay hyphens, and two-story, two-bay by two-bay wings. The whole house is roughcast. The main block has a gable roof with a flat roof in the center, with a northeast-southwest ridge on the center block and the hyphens. The wings each have hipped roofs. All of the roofing is wood shingles. On the southeast elevation, the center block has a center entrance flanked by stones carved with "C.P.D. 1738." There is a one-story, one-bay porch set on brick piers, with four Tuscan columns. The main block of the house has a center-passage double-pile plan, with the passage being only one room deep. There is a hyphen and wing on each end, with one room in each, and an addition on the northeast wing. The passage and south room have fully paneled walls. The southwest hyphen has a stair that ascends on the southeast wall, to the southwest, with winders in the south corner and a landing on the southwest. The landing continues as a balcony that runs along the northwest wall and connects to the doorway and stairway in the west closet of the south room of the main block. The southwest wing has all four corners curved, and there is a marble mantel on the southwest.

## Significance:

"Belmont" is located on what was a 1,360-acre tract of land patented in 1695 by Mordecai Moore as "Moore's Morning Choice." The land was acquired by Caleb Dorsey, Sr. (of Hockley-in-the-Hole) at an unknown date and sold to his son, Caleb Dorsey, Jr. in 1732. Caleb, Jr. married Priscilla Hill in 1734/5. The existing house has two virtually identical plaques on it with the initials of Caleb and Priscilla Dorsey, and the date "1738." This date has traditionally been taken as the date of construction of the existing house, but it seems more likely that Caleb, Jr. built a smaller structure, probably of frame, on the property in 1738 and replaced it with a larger brick dwelling once his iron business provided the necessary means. Caleb Dorsey died in 1772 and "Belmont" went to his younger son, Edward Hill. At his death in 1799 Edward's widow, Elizabeth controlled "Belmont." The first recorded glimpse one gets of "Belmont" is with the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, which notes that one wing of the brick house was not finished. Elizabeth Dorsey died young, too, in 1802, but Edward's estate was not divided until 1815. Apparently Priscilla Dorsey, who had married Alexander Contee Hanson, received "Belmont." Hanson died in 1819 and Priscilla retained control of "Belmont" until her death in 1849. She left the property to her son Charles Grosvenor Hanson in trust for his life, and insured that it would pass to his children. Some of them continued to live at "Belmont" until the last of them to reside there, "Nannie," died in 1917. In 1917 "Belmont" was acquired by Mary Graham Bruce, who was a cousin of the Hansons. A decade later she enlarged the house by putting two rooms on the rear of the main block and deepening both hyphens. The original roof line was preserved in the front by building a flat roof between the original ridge and the ridge of the new addition. As a result, the house appears much as it always did on the southeast.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-43

*Easement*

## 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

"Belmont"

other

## 2. Location

street and number 6555 Belmont Woods Road

not for publication

city, town Elkridge

☒ vicinity

county Howard

## 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Howard Community College Board of Trustees

street and number 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway

telephone 410-772-4304

city, town Columbia

state MD

zip code 21044

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse

liber 8797 folio 298

city, town Ellicott City

tax map 32

tax parcel 2

tax ID number

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	4
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	4
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	0
			Total
			4

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

4

## 7. Description

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### Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary:

"Belmont" is set well back on the road from Elibank Road, and consists of a roughcast brick house, stone barn, stone smokehouse, and frame pump house. The house is set on a rise with a terrace in front of it and another terrace behind it, and faces southeast. The house is a one and one half-story, five-bay by three-bay center block with lower one and one half-story three-bay hyphens, and two-story, two-bay by two-bay wings. The whole house is roughcast. The main block has a gable roof with a flat roof in the center, with a northeast-southwest ridge on the center block and the hyphens. The wings each have hipped roofs. All of the roofing is wood shingles. On the southeast elevation, the center block has a center entrance flanked by stones carved with "C.P.D. 1738." There is a one-story, one-bay porch set on brick piers, with four Tuscan columns. The main block of the house has a center-passage double-pile plan, with the passage being only one room deep. There is a hyphen and wing on each end, with one room in each, and an addition on the northeast wing. The passage and south room have fully paneled walls. The southwest hyphen has a stair that ascends on the southeast wall, to the southwest, with winders in the south corner and a landing on the southwest. The landing continues as a balcony that runs along the northwest wall and connects to the doorway and stairway in the west closet of the south room of the main block. The southwest wing has all four corners curved, and there is a marble mantel on the southwest.

### Description:

"Belmont" is located at 6555 Belmont Woods Road in the Elkridge vicinity in Eastern Howard County, Maryland. The farm is set well back on the road from Elibank Road, and consists of a roughcast brick house, stone barn, stone smokehouse, and frame pump house. The house is set on a rise with a terrace in front of it and another terrace behind it, and faces southeast.

### House, exterior

The house is a one and one half-story, five-bay by three-bay center block with lower one and one half-story three-bay hyphens, and two-story, two-bay by two-bay wings. The whole house is roughcast. The main block has a gable roof with a flat roof in the center, with a northeast-southwest ridge on the center block and the hyphens. The wings each have hipped roofs. All of the roofing is wood shingles. On the southeast elevation, the center block has a raised basement with a beveled water table. The foundation has symmetrically-arched openings with a six-light sash in the south-center bay and a blind opening in the east-center bay. The first story has a center entrance with a door that has eight panels that have slightly sunken fields with an ovolo on the edge of the field, and ogee and ovolo panel moulds. The door has new hardware. It is set in a wide frame that is mortised and tenoned and pegged and has a bead on the inner edge. There is a four-light transom that has very wide and deep muntins. There are four Tuscan half columns on the wall, and between them are stones carved with "C.P.D. 1738," and they have bolection mouldings. There is a bed mould in the center bay that matches that of the cornice.

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There is a one-story, one-bay porch set on brick piers, with four old sandstone steps and one concrete step at the bottom. The porch has four Tuscan columns to the front of it, with a wood box cornice that has small modillions. There is a new board deck and a board soffit with gaps between the boards. The porch has a pedimented gable roof with a northwest-southeast ridge and wood shingles. The porch deck was removed and replaced, exposing the front wall beneath the porch. There are two courses of brick visible, and they are not roughcast. They have a Flemish bond pattern with a grapevine joint, and the headers are mostly glazed. The bricks are 8 1/2 to 9 inches long by 3 3/4 to 4 inches wide and 2 1/4 to 2 3/4 inches high, and are handmade.

There are two nine-over-nine double-hung sash to each side of the doorway and porch, and they have a quirked ogee-and-bead backband and a wood sill. There are shutters with four panels each, on strap hinges, and the pintels are driven into the window frames. The shutter panels have flush fields with an ovolo moulding on the edge of the field and ovolo panel moulds. The hinges are tapered and have lima bean cusps. The shutters appear to be twentieth-century reproductions with re-used old hardware. In the center of one of each pair of shutters is an iron strap with a pin that passes into a hole in the opposite shutter to hold it closed. On the inter face, at the bottom, is an iron loop to grasp and pull shut, and the bottom of this loop has a hook that latches onto a spring strap fastened to the sill. The bottom of the opposite shutter has a large ring with which to grab it and pull it closed. There is a similar ring in the center with a chain on it, and at the end of the chain is an L-shaped piece of metal that slides down into a slot in the center pin that passes through the hole; this then holds the shutters closed tight. There are also wrought iron shutter hold fasts that have a rattail at the bottom. There is a wood box cornice, with a bed mould that has an ovolo above an ogee and a bead on the bottom of the board. The cornice has a large ogee above an ovolo. The cornice is stopped short of the end walls. There are three dormers with paired four-light casements, and they have a small ogee backband. The dormers are gabled and have an ogee cornice. They appear to be completely rebuilt in the twentieth century. The dormer cheek walls have round-butt shingles. There is an interior parged chimney on each end.

The southwest hyphen has a center doorway that is set at grade and has a door with six panels that have sunken fields and quirked Greek ogee-and-bead panel moulds. It is set in a bull-nosed frame that is partly covered by the roughcasting. There is a four-over-four double-hung sash to each side, also set in a bull-nosed frame. The sash have wood sills with a spring latch, and have one shutter that has three panels that match those on the center block and also appear to be from the twentieth century. The shutters have the same hardware hold fasts and pulls with latches, and have H-L hinges with pins; these are probably reproductions, but are partly under the roughcasting and heavy paint, making them difficult to examine closely. The hyphen has a fret dentil cornice, and the wall is recessed slightly back of the main block and further back of the wing.



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The southeast elevation of the southwest wing, on the first story, has two nine-over-nine double-hung sash in mortised and tenoned and pegged frames that have an ovolo backband. There are wood sills with spring latches, and the shutters and hardware match the center block. The second story has two six-over-six double-hung sash in mortised and tenoned and pegged frames like the first story, and with wood sills. There are blinds with the same hardware as the first story, but with no center pin. The wing has a fret dentil cornice, and there is an interior parged chimney on the southwest end.

The southeast elevation of the northeast hyphen has a central doorway set at grade, with a door that has eight panels and is made to match the center block door. The transom bar has an ogee. There are boards that cover the door jambs, but the transom jambs each have a sunken, flat panel with ovolo panel moulds, and there are two panels on the soffit. The frame has an ovolo outside of a cavetto. There is a stone sill. On either side of the doorway is a four-over-four double-hung sash that has a wood sill with a spring latch. The window frames have a large bead on the inner edge, and it is flush with the roughcasting. The shutters and hardware are identical to that on the southwest hyphen, and there is also a fret dentil cornice. The details differ from those on the southwest hyphen windows and doors, suggesting that they were done at a different time on the northeast hyphen. There is a compass-headed dormer with a copper roof, and it has a six-light sash.

The southeast elevation of the northeast wing, on the first story, has two nine-over-nine double-hung sash in mortised and tenoned and pegged frames that have ovolo backbands. There are wood sills with spring latches, and the shutter pintels are driven into the frames. The shutters have been removed for repair, but there are typical hold fasts in the wall. The second story has two six-over-six double-hung sash in mortised and tenoned and pegged frames with ovolo backbands and wood sills. The blinds have the same hardware as the southwest wing. There is a fret dentil cornice and an interior parged chimney on the northeast end. The center block has paired chimneys on both the northeast and southwest ends. The northeast elevation has a four-light sash set east of the east chimney, with a jerkin head between the two chimneys. The southwest elevation of the center block has a pair of three-light casements set south of the south chimney, and also has a jerkin head between the chimneys.

The southwest elevation of the southwest wing has two nine-over-nine double-hung sash on the first story that have mortised and tenoned and pegged frames and match the southeast windows. The second story has two six-over-six double-hung sash that also match the southeast and are mortised and tenoned and pegged. There is a fret dentil cornice.

The northwest elevation of the southwest wing, on the first story, has French doors and a twelve light transom in the north bay. It has a modern frame and shutters hung on pintels. The west bay has a nine-over-nine double-hung sash that matches the southeast elevation of this wing. The second story has two six-over-six sash that also match the southeast, and there is a fret dentil cornice.

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The northwest elevation of the southwest hyphen is identical to the southeast elevation of this hyphen, but the frames have a large bead. There is a dormer that matches the northwest hyphen southeast elevation.

On the center block, the southwest elevation west bay has a symmetrically-arched three-light sash with a wood sill in the foundation. The first story of this bay has a twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash in a ogee-moulded frame, also with a wood sill. The shutters have been removed. The second story of this bay has a pair of four-light casements, with a wood sill. The center bay on the second story has a pair of three-light casements with a wood sill. There are beaded rake boards. The northwest elevation of the center block has a raised foundation with a beveled water table. The foundation has four symmetrically-arched three-light sash with wood sills. The first story has a center door with eight panels that have slightly sunken fields and ovolo panel moulds. The doors are mortised and tenoned and pinned. There is architrave with a quirked ogee backband, a slightly broken field, a pulvinated frieze, and a large cavetto on the cornice. There is a stone porch in the center that has curving stairs to each side of it that are also of stone and have a curved iron balustrade. The center of the balustrade has ovals with balls between them, and there is fret work across the top and bottom. There are curtail steps with round balusters. To either side of the doorway are two nine-over-nine sash with large Greek ogees on the frame. The windows have four-panel shutters that match the southeast elevation, with bars into a socket on the wood sill. There is a wood box cornice that matches that of the southeast elevation, and four dormers that also match the southeast, but have plain butt hinges on the cheek walls. The northeast elevation of the center block has a nine-over-nine sash that matches the northwest window in the north bay. The foundation has a door next to the hyphen, and this door has six lights over two panels. There are concrete steps down to the doorway. The second story of the center block matches the southwest elevation of this block.

The northwest elevation of the northeast hyphen matches the southeast elevation of this hyphen, and has a dormer. The northwest elevation of the northeast wing matches the southeast elevation of this wing on both the first and second stories. There is a large one and one half-story, three-bay by three-bay addition at the north end of the northeast wing. It is roughcast and has a hipped roof with a flat center, and wood shingles. The east corner of the addition is cut back one bay. There are six-over-six double-hung sash on the first story that have mortised and tenoned and pegged frames, with pegged joints into the sills, too. The frames have ovolo backbands, and there are blinds. The pegs are very prominent and it is not possible to determine if they are real. There are six-over-six gable-roofed dormers that also have mortised and tenoned and pegged frames.

**House, interior - main block, first story**

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The main block of the house has a center-passage double-pile plan, with the passage being only one room deep. There is a hyphen and wing on each end, with one room in each, and an addition on the north, west, and northeast sides of the northeast wing.

The passage has random-width oak flooring that runs northeast-southwest. The baseboard is short and has an ogee on the top. The room has fully paneled walls in wood with sunken fields and ovolo panel moulds. The panels are large, with one below the chair rail and one above it. The southwest wall and the southeast wall, east of the door, have rails and stiles that are mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners. The northeast wall, east of the doorway, also is constructed this way. The rest of the northeast wall and the northwest wall are not mortised and tenoned and pinned and must have been added at a later date. The chair rail has a torus in the center with an ogee on top and a reverse ogee on the bottom. The cornice is of wood and has an ogee above an ovolo at the top, and a bed mould with a large ovolo above an ogee. The architrave has an ogee backband, a broken field with an ogee at the break, and a beaded interior edge. The front, or southeast, door has eight panels that are sunken and flat and have no panel moulds. The door is mortised and tenoned and pinned, and is hung on large H-L hinges fastened with wrought nails. There is a large wrought iron plate rim lock with a brass knob, and a slide deadbolt at the bottom of the door. The door frame is mortised and tenoned and pegged, as is the transom bar, and the frames are all 4 ½ inches wide by 5 inches deep, with a quarter-round moulding added at the edges. The transom muntins are very large and are chamfered on the interior. There is a newly added ceiling medallion. The southwest door has six panels that have slightly sunken fields and ovolo panel moulds. This door is mortised and tenoned and pinned and is hung on cast iron butt hinges that have five knuckles and heavy paint. There is the faint ghost of what could have been H-L hinges on the door, but they are not on the architrave. The brass rim lock on this door is not original. The northeast elevation has a large doorway to the east that appears to have been cut through the wall in the c. 1920s. The architrave matches that of the southwest door, but is a reproduction. There was never a door in this wide opening. There is another door set to the north that also has architrave that matches the southwest door and appears to be a reproduction. This door has six panels with ovolo panel moulds and sunken, flat panels. The door appears to date to about the 1920s or later and has new butt hinges and a new lock.

The south room has carpeting, new baseboard with a quirked ogee, and full paneling with a chair rail and cornice that all match that in the passage. All of the paneling on the northeast, southeast, and southwest elevations are mortised and tenoned and pinned, while the paneling on the northwest wall is not and must have been installed in the c. 1920s. The northwest wall has French doors with modern flat ogee trim and a fanlight above them; the doors lead to the west room. The southeast windows have wide muntins with ovolo moulds but are not mortised and tenoned and pinned. They have 8-inch by 10-inch lights, have parting beads, are hung on tapes, and are clearly twentieth-century sash. The openings have slightly splayed plain wood jambs that are recessed down to the floor, and there is a new panel under each window that is sunken and flat and has a small bead. The jamb boards are patched at the bottom.



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The edge of the paneling at the opening has a bead, but there is no trim on the frame. The southwest elevation has a fireplace in the center with a brick hearth laid in mortar that appears to be old bricks that have been re-laid. There are splayed brick jambs that appear to be of handmade brick. The back of the firebox has two arched iron firebacks with brick above. The firebacks are cracked and may predate the installation of the splayed jambs, which may cover part of the firebacks. There is a parged surround with a plain board around it, and it has a double bead on the inner edge and is arched on the top. There is a wood board added on each side to fill in a spot on the upper corners of the opening. There is an ogee on the outer edge of this trim board. This alteration to the fireplace, which may replace an original bolection moulding, appears to be older than the c. 1920s. On either side of the fireplace is a closet door that has four panels with slightly sunken fields and ovolo panel moulds. The doors are mortised and tenoned and pinned and are hung on H-L hinges. There is chair rail on the door that is coped on the ends to keep it short of the edges of the door, in the same treatment as the chair rail on the walls is handled where it meets the window and closet door openings. There is no architrave for the closet doors, as they are made to blend in and disappear. They have new brass rim locks, and this is cut into the south door chair rail.

The west closet has a stair in it along the southwest wall, with a landing at the southeast and northwest ends. The stair connects to the hyphen, and does not come down to the first floor level. The stairway is narrow and ascends to the northwest, then turns and ascends to the southeast along the northeast half of the closet. It has a plain open stringer and a turned newel post that is tapered and has a simple Doric column profile. There are square balusters and a three quarter-round ramped handrail. The bottoms of the newels have ogee pendants with a round ball in the center. The baseboard has a quirked torus with a cavetto-and-bead above. There is also a heat duct in the east corner of the closet. There is a doorway on the southwest, set to the south, at the landing, and it connects to the hyphen. The door has an angled profile at the top that matches the angle of the hyphen ceiling. There is plain trim with rounded-off corners. The doorway has a flush wood door hung on butt hinges with ball finials, and has a brass Yale mortise lock and brass knobs. The newels appear to be wire-nailed, not mortised and tenoned and pinned. There was a railing between the hand rail, near the bottom newel, and the northeast wall. It was fastened with wire nails and was removed to add the duct work. The northeast wall, where the duct passes through, is plaster and there is one piece of sawn lath visible. There is a beaded edge around the closet door, on the rails and stiles. There is heavy paint on the woodwork, and the first layers appears to be an iron oxide red, then a light gray, black, many coats of cream, and a light green, with tan on top.

The south closet is now a pass-through to the southwest hyphen. There are built-in cupboards on the northwest and southeast sides of the closet, flanking the pass-through. The cupboards are matching and have paired three-paneled doors that have sunken fields and ogee-and-fillet panel moulds. The doors are mortised and tenoned and pinned, and are hung on cast iron butt hinges that have three knuckles and heavy paint. There are iron cabinet locks and brass pulls. The panels have slight indications of hand-



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planing. The southwest wall door jambs have one panel each, and one on the soffit. The panels match those of the cupboard doors. The door has been removed from this opening into the hyphen.

The west room has carpeting, baseboard with a quirked ogee and bevel, and full paneling. There is deep chair rail with an ovolo and a cavetto below it. The panels are flush, have ovolo moulds, and are not mortised and tenoned and pinned. The cornice has an ogee at the top, an ovolo and an odd fret dentil at the bottom. The architrave matches the passage, and appears to be a reproduction with crossettes at the bottom. The southeast wall has a doorway flanked by fluted Doric pilasters. The northeast wall has a fireplace in the center with a painted stone hearth and surround, straight brick jambs, and a wood mantel that has fluted Doric pilasters both below and above a simple shelf moulded with an ogee over a cavetto. The mantel has a plain frieze panel. There is an over-mantel that has a panel with crossetted ovolo backband. Flanking both sides of the fireplace is a built-in cupboard with a round-arched top that is reduced in width. Each cupboard door has fifteen lights, with four lights in the circular top. The cupboards have paneled jambs with adjustable shelves, and the doors are hung on short brass hinges that are oval. The southwest wall has two identical cupboards with a window between them. The window opening is recessed, and the sash have 12-inch by 12 ½-inch lights and narrow ovolo muntins. The sash are mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners, but are twentieth-century sash with parting beads and chains. The northwest elevation has two windows that match that on the southwest elevation.

### **House, interior - southwest hyphen, first story**

The southwest hyphen has oak flooring that runs northeast-southwest, plaster walls, and a plaster barrel vault ceiling with a bead at the bottom corner on each side of the barrel vault; this bead is on a wood trim piece. The architrave has a backband that has a small cavetto and a Greek ogee-and-bead; there is a broken field, and a bead on the interior edge of the architrave. The chair rail is sunken in the center, with a quirked bead and fillet at the bottom, a raised bead above, and with a small fillet and quirk above it. There is baseboard with a torus that has a small fillet on each side, is quirked below, and has a cavetto and bead at the top; this is found only on the southeast wall and is heavily filled with paint and other material making the interpretation of the moulding profile difficult. The rest of the room has a quirked Greek ogee-and-bevel on the baseboard. There are seven stairs down from the south room pass-through, along the southeast wall. The stairway has an open stringer, plain oak treads, square balusters, a three quarter-round handrail that appears to be walnut, and a very new oak newel post. There is a stair that ascends on the southeast wall, to the southwest, with winders in the south corner and a landing on the southwest. The landing continues as a balcony that runs along the northwest wall and connects to the doorway and stairway in the west closet of the south room of the main block. This stairway has an open stringer with one rabbet and a projecting bead at the bottom. It is mortised and tenoned and pinned to the newel posts with two pins each. The newel posts are turned, have a slight taper, and a slim Doric column profile. There are pendants on the bottom that are rather flat, with a bead in the center. The stair has square balusters, oak treads, and a three-quarter-round handrail that appears to be walnut. The

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handrail has a slight curve at the bottom and sits on top of the newel posts. At the landing the handrail is bent to lap over the newel. The wall stringer cuts across the window on the southeast. The underside of the stairs is plastered. The southeast elevation has a six-panel door in the center that has sunken fields and quirked ogee-and-bead panel moulds. The door is not mortised and tenoned and pinned. The door is hung on butt hinges with ball finials that date probably to the 1920s, and has a mortise lock. The door has a wide frame with a modern flat ogee trim for the backband. The southwest elevation has a six-panel door and four steps inside the hyphen that lead down to this door. There is new backband added on top of the original. The door has sunken fields and quirked ogee-and-bead panel moulds, is mortised and tenoned and pinned, and is hung on butt hinges with ball finials. There is an iron mortise lock with a brass plate screwed to the end of it, brass knobs, and a brass keyhole. The lock does not have any label or markings on the interior.

The upper story at the landing has a pocket door that will not open. This doorway has typical architrave with one panel on the soffit and one on each jamb that matches the door below it on this wall. The rails and stiles are mortised and tenoned and pinned, and there is one step up into the wing. The northwest elevation has three round-arched openings through the masonry, and these are plastered and have a bead run on the inner edge on the plaster. There is an addition on the northwest of this wall, and this addition closes off the west arch for a modern bathroom. The addition has new doors and architrave to rooms behind the west and north arches. There is a door at the northwest end of the addition, through the center arch, and it has six panels, is mortised and tenoned and pinned, and matches the door on the southwest. The door has a twentieth-century mortise lock and has a large ogee backband set close to the bead on the inner edge. The southwest elevation has new half paneling and no chair rail. There is an access panel on the northwest wall of the balcony, at the north end. Behind this access panel is a small opening that exposes the southwest wall of the main block. The brickwork on the main block is natural, not painted or roughcast, and has a grapevine joint. The hyphen is built up against the main block, which was clearly originally an exterior wall. One glazed header is visible, but too little of the wall can be seen to determine the bond pattern. The joint in the brickwork was struck smooth before the grapevine was run. The headers are about  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches high. The stretcher is at least  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches long, but it is impossible to get a complete stretcher measurement. The hyphen brick is  $4\frac{1}{8}$  inches by  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches high, and is handmade. The hyphen brickwork also has a grapevine joint. It is not possible to see enough of the brick to determine the bond pattern clearly, but it appears to be Flemish bond with some, but not all, glazed headers.

### **House, interior - southwest wing, first story**

The southwest wing has oak flooring that runs northeast-southwest. The baseboard has a quirked bead with a cavetto-and-bead above it. The chair rail matches the southwest hyphen. The architrave is symmetrical, with a raised field in the center and a bead mould to each side. There are corner blocks that have a pyramidal diamond in the center. The cornice is run plaster that has dentils and a small ogee

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above. All four corners of this room are curved, and the baseboard and chair rail follow the curve; this appears to be an original treatment. The windows on the southeast and northwest elevation are recessed, and the trim is carried down to the floor. They have one panel on the soffit and two on the jambs, one above the sill and one below on each side. The panels are sunken and flat and have quirked ogee-and-bead panel moulds. There is a matching panel beneath the window. The rails and stiles of the sash are mortised and tenoned and pinned. The sash have 10-inch by 12-inch lights and cavetto-and-ovolo muntins that are narrow. The sash have parting beads, are hung on tapes, and are twentieth-century. The southwest windows match, but do not appear to be mortised and tenoned and pinned. There is a fireplace in the center of the southwest wall, with a marble hearth and slightly splayed brick jambs. There is a marble mantel that has white marble with a black background, black shelf, and black bed mould. The mantel has symmetrical architrave that is pulvinated at the center and has a bead on each side, and there are bull's-eye corner blocks. The mantel has an ogee bed mould and a cavetto on the bottom corner of the shelf. The northeast elevation has a door in the center with a blind transom or panel above that has a single sunken flat panel and has architrave. On either side of this doorway is a niche with architrave, but it is not possible to tell whether these niches are original or added.

The east room of the main block is set two steps down from the level of the passage, the floor having been dropped. The walls have full paneling that is not mortised and tenoned and pinned. There is chair rail with a torus in the center that has a wide fillet and ogee above a narrow fillet, and a quirk and ogee below. The chair rail runs below the window sills. The windows match the south room and have a large bead around all four sides of the opening; this bead is larger than what is found in the south room. The cornice matches that in the passage. This is an L-shaped room with a dog-leg stair on the northeast wall that ascends to the northwest, and then turns to the southwest. It has an open stringer with sawn brackets in a wave pattern with a swoosh, and the wall beneath the stringer is paneled. There are elaborate turned balusters that have an urn below a block and a long tapered colonette at the top. There is a curtail step at the bottom with a center baluster that is a fluted column; it is thin and has an octagonal base. There is a ramped walnut toad-back hand rail. The bottoms of the balusters are dove-tailed and fastened with one wire nail, and there is no evidence that they were nailed before. The newel at the landing is also a fluted column that is thin and has a square base. The stairway all appears to be c. 1920s Colonial Revival, and it appears that there is a wide chimney stack on the northeast wall behind the stairway. The northeast wall has a wide arched opening that is very deep, with six steps down to the northeast hyphen. This opening has paneled jambs and a paneled soffit. There is architrave on the arch only, with an ogee backband, a broken field with a cavetto at the break, and an ovolo on the inner edge. The soffit panels are sunken and flat, with ovolo, fillet, and ovolo moulds. The paneling does not continue up the main stairway.

The north room has a vestibule, a closet and bathroom at the southeast end that fills up part of the east room creating the ell plan there, and the main room to the northwest. All of the architrave has a cavetto-



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and-bead backband, a broken field, and a small bead at the inner edge. The doors have six panels and are not pinned. They have flush fields and ovolo panel moulds, wrought H-L hinges, and brass Yale mortise locks. The chair rail has a quarter round moulding on the shelf with two fillets below a long quarter round, and a bead at the bottom. The cornice has an ogee at the top and a bed mould with an unusual fret dentil and bead. There are two closets built-in on the southwest wall, each with paired four-panel doors that match the other doors in this room and have H and H-L hinges and chair rail across the door. The interior of the closets has V-groove vertical boards. The windows match those in the west room. There is a fireplace on the northeast elevation that has what appears to be a slate hearth, has straight brick jambs, and has a painted stone surround. There is a wood mantel with crossetted architrave that has an ovolo backband, a raised bead, and a large cavetto and bead on the inner edge. There is a paneled center frieze plaque that is sunken and flat and has ogee moulds. There are scroll brackets with acanthus on either end. The mantel has an enriched cavetto bed mould with acanthus at the corners where it breaks, and fluting between. There is a cavetto and bead at the edge of the mantel shelf.

### **House, interior - northeast hyphen, first story**

The northeast hyphen first story is all one room with new oak flooring and full paneling that is not mortised and tenoned and pinned. The architrave is narrow, with an ogee backband and a small bead on the inner edge. It is carried down to the floor, and there are panels under the window sills that are recessed. There is a cornice with a scotia applied at the bottom and an ogee at the top, right on the paneling. The northwest and southeast walls both have a door between two windows. The sash date from the twentieth-century and have ovolo-and-cavetto muntins. The doors have flush fields with an ovolo on the edge of the field, and ovolo panel moulds. They are hung on butt hinges with ball finials and are not mortised and tenoned and pinned. They have a four-light transom that is mortised and tenoned and pinned, and has fairly wide ovolo muntins and 9-inch by 9-inch lights. The southwest elevation has a fireplace in the center that has a painted hearth that may be slate, a similar surround, and splayed brick jambs. The mantel has fluted pilasters with sawn, flat Ionic-profile decoration applied to the capital. These pilasters flank the opening, with a wood shelf between them that has a bed mould with a large quirked Greek ovolo above a small quirked Greek ovolo and bead. There is applied panel mould above the mantel shelf to create an over-mantel. This moulding has a torus with a cavetto on the outer edge of it and a field and bead on the inner edge. To the southeast of the fireplace is the stairs up to the main block stair hall. To the northwest of the fireplace is a passage to a powder room on the southeast side of the passage, and stairs down to the basement of the main block. The northeast end of the hyphen has two steps down at both the north and east corners to landings, and the stairs turn toward the center with two more steps down and lead to a doorway in the center of the northeast wall. There is a railing here that matches the main stair, with curtail ends. The walls below the floor level are also paneled. The northeast doorway jambs and soffit, and the double doors here, match the northwest and southeast elevation doors.



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#### **House, interior - northeast wing, first story**

The northeast wing has carpeting and baseboard that has a quirked large bead with a cavetto above it. The walls are fully paneled, and this is not mortised and tenoned and pinned. The chair rail has a cavetto and bead below the shelf and a bead on the bottom edge. The cornice is wood and matches that in the stair hall. There is a new ceiling medallion in the center. The southwest doors are hung on butt hinges with ball finials. The architrave has an ogee-and-bead baseboard, a broken field with an ogee at the break, and a beaded interior edge. This appears to be reproduction from the c. 1920s. There is an overdoor that has a frieze that is coped on the ends, with a bed mould that has an ovolo above a fillet and ogee, and an ogee cornice. The windows are not recessed, creating deep sills, and have twentieth-century sash that are hung on cords and are not mortised and tenoned and pinned. The sash have 10-inch by 12-inch lights and ovolo-and-cavetto muntins. The walls appear to be studded out and then paneled. The northeast elevation has a fireplace in the center that projects into the room and has a painted hearth and surround that may be slate, and splayed brick jambs. There is an ovolo backband applied to the paneling, and there are paneled impostes that are sunken and flat. There is a dentil bed mould with drill holes, with an ovolo above the dentils and an ogee at the top. There is a paneled and crossetted over-mantel that has an ovolo backband, a raised bead on the inner edge, and the panel inside of this architrave is now covered by a mirror. There is a hidden door to the north that matches the paneling and leads to a modern commercial kitchen in the addition.

The addition has a large commercial kitchen with plain mitered trim that has rounded edges. There is a stair hall along the southwest wall, to the west of the doorway into the wing, and the stairs ascend to the southeast with winders at both the bottom and the top. The stairway has a square pine newel post, rectangular balusters, and an ovoid handrail. The addition has twentieth-century six-over-six sash, and many doors have five lying panels and marble thresholds.

#### **House, interior - main block, second story**

The second story of the main block has a cross-passage that runs along the rear or northwest wall from the main stairway in the west corner to the southwest end, where there is the narrow stairway in the south room closet. There are two chambers to the southeast of the passage and two to the northwest, in the addition. The landing in the north corner has a round-arched opening to the second story of the northeast hyphen, with a window on the wall above, close to the corner, which has a pair of three-light casements. The cornice in the stair area matches the rest of the east room and is at the second-story ceiling level. The baseboard has a quirked ogee and bevel and the chair rail has a torus with an ogee and bead above it and an ogee below it. The architrave has a cavetto-and-bead backband, a shallow broken field, and a beaded interior edge; it is new. There are new wood six-panel doors that have flush fields and ovolo panel moulds. The southwest end stair landing is set up against the chimney, then the passage turns back to the northwest to connect to the cross passage along the back wall.

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The south chamber (Dorsey Room) has carpeting, and baseboard and architrave that match the passage. The dormer sash has a pair of four-light casements with ovolo muntins and butt hinges with "torpedo" knuckles. The southwest sash has a pair of three-light casements with twentieth-century butt hinges. There is a corner fireplace on the southwest that has a painted hearth that may be slate. There is a parged surround and slightly splayed brick jambs. The wood mantel appears to be a twentieth-century addition. It has architrave with a steep Greek ogee and bead, and a beaded interior edge. It is mitered at the corners. There is a plain frieze that is coped at the ends, the bed mould has a quirked Greek ogee and two fillets, and the mantel shelf has an ovolo on the edge. A closet has been added to the north corner of the room. There is a door on the northeast that leads to a bathroom that has all modern fixtures and features.

The east chamber (Poe Room) has carpeting, with baseboard and architrave that match the passage. The dormer sash matches the south chamber dormer. The northeast sash has a four-light casement with new butt hinges. Below the sill is an ogee over a cavetto, with an ovolo and fillet at the bottom. The southwest wall has two doors, one to a closet and another to a bathroom. The doors have four panels with sunken fields and ovolo panel moulds, and are hung on butt hinges with ball finials. The bathroom has new fixtures, but has white tile on the walls that probably dates to the c. 1920s. There is a built-in mirror on the northwest wall, and the architrave for this mirror matches the doors in the chamber.

The north chamber (Carroll Room) has carpeting, with baseboard and architrave that match the passage. The northwest dormer sash matches the dormer in the south chamber. There is a corner fireplace in the east with a wood mantel that has fluted pilasters with drill holes above the flutes, and a band across the frieze that has alternating diamonds and five flutes cut into it. There is a frieze plaque with four sets of nine flutes with a column of drill holes separating each set. There are fluted dentils on the bed mould with an ovolo above and a cavetto below it. The mantel is not mortised and tenoned and pinned and must date to the twentieth century. The mantel shelf has an ogee moulding. The southwest wall has two typical six-panel doors like the passage, and they lead to a closet and a bathroom. The bathroom has H-L hinges that are wrought reproductions. The dormer on the northwest matches the south chamber. The northeast elevation has a window that matches the south chamber southwest sash, but has new hinges.

The west chamber (Hanson Room) has carpeting, and has baseboard and architrave that match the passage. The dormer sash also matches that in the south chamber. The southwest sash matches the north chamber northeast sash. There is a corner fireplace in the south, with a wood mantel that has pilasters with herring bone reeding. There are fluted dentils across the bottom of the plain frieze, and there are imposts with sunken flat oval panels that have beaded panel moulds. The mantel bed mould has a band with alternating diamonds and five flutes, and there is an ovolo above this band. The mantel shelf has an ogee with a beaded moulding on the edge. The northeast wall has two typical six-panel

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doors, leading to a closet and a bathroom. The bathroom door is hung on reproduction H-L hinges. The bathroom has a window on the northeast with a sash that matches the south chamber dormer.

### **House, interior - southwest wing, second story**

The second story of the southwest wing has a vestibule with a diagonal wall on the southeast that contains a door and a passage that runs to the northwest then turns to the northeast into the added section of the hyphen. The architrave for the hyphen door and the southeast chamber door matches that on the first story of the hyphen. The architrave for the northwest chamber door has a cavetto-and-bead backband, a broken field, and a small bead on the inner edge. This door may have been set in an angled wall, too, originally, and moved to get access to the addition to the hyphen.

The southeast chamber door has six panels with quirked ogee-and-bead panel moulds, sunken fields, and the door is not mortised and tenoned and pinned. It is hung on butt hinges with ball finials and has a Yale brass mortise lock. The chamber has carpeting and the baseboard matches that in the hyphen. There is chair rail with a torus on the shelf, and beneath the shelf the chair rail is symmetrical, with a bead and fillet on each side of the field. The architrave matches the hyphen and vestibule. The windows have splayed jambs with one panel on each and one panel on the soffit. The panels are sunken and flat, with quirked ogee-and-bead panel moulds, and there are no pins visible in the corner joints. The sash match the wing first story. There is a corner fireplace in the west corner with a brick hearth that has been rebuilt and laid in mortar. It has round corners. There is a parged surround and splayed brick jambs. The fireplace has a wood mantel with architrave that has a backband that matches the rest of the room, but there is not a broken field and there is a double bead on the inner edge. The mantel has a plain frieze and is mortised and tenoned and pinned. The bed mould has a large bead with a cavetto and bead below it. There is an ovolo on the edge of the mantel shelf. The window sash have brass numbers. There is a wood cornice with an ogee at the top, three fillets below it, and a projecting ogee moulding at the bottom. This cornice appears to be added, probably in the late nineteenth century. The northwest wall has two six-panel doors that match the door into this chamber. Both of these doors have a backband with a small cavetto, then an ogee and bead. The west door is hung on butt hinges with pins and leads to a closet. It has a twentieth-century brass mortise lock. The north door leads to the northwest chamber and has a brass mortise lock.

The northwest chamber has carpeting on the floor, and the baseboard and window match those in the southeast chamber. The chair rail on the northwest and southwest also match that in the southwest chamber of the wing, but there is new chair rail that is similar to it on the northeast and southeast elevations. These last two walls are added, and have closets in both of the walls. The doors match the southeast chamber, with brass Yale locks and wrought H-L hinges that must be reproductions. The cornice in this chamber also matches the southeast chamber.

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The southwest wing attic is covered with Homosote, so the rafters are hidden. Several joists are cut through for an access hatch into the attic, and one is cut at a center tenon.

The passage to the hyphen addition chamber has closets on the northwest with doors that match the northeast chamber. There are high closets on the southeast wall with two pair of one-panel doors. The panels are sunken and flat and have ovolo panel moulds, and the doors must be set above the original hyphen roof. The doors have plain trim and are cedar-lined closets. There is a bathroom at the northeast end of the passage, and the door of it matches that of the northwest chamber. There is a segmentally-arched dormer on the northwest that has six lights and wide muntins. The southeast wall of the bathroom has a high cedar closet like those in the passage.

#### **House, interior - northeast hyphen and wing, second story**

The northeast hyphen has a double-loaded corridor with a dog leg at the southwest end to connect to the main stair landing. The baseboard, architrave, chair rail, and doors match the main passage on the second story but the doors have reproduction H-L hinges. There is a round-arched opening at the southwest end that has a plaster bead on the edge on both sides. At the southwest end there is a closet on the northwest elevation and another on the southeast. The southeast closet has 2 1/4-inch oak flooring that runs northeast-southwest and the southwest wall has something boxed in that is cut off about 30 inches above the floor. This boxed-in section is furred out. The passage narrows at the northeast end, with a portion of masonry wall on the southeast.

The southeast chamber in the hyphen (Governor John H. Stone Room) is actually located in the northeast wing. It has carpeting and baseboard that matches the passage, but is taller. The architrave matches the passage but has a small ovolo on top of the outer edge of the backband. There is chair rail with a small ovolo on the edge of the shelf, an ovolo and bead below it, and a large bead on the bottom edge. This chair rail is older than the baseboard. The southwest wall has a seam in the center of it, and this seam aligns with a seam in the lower board of the chair rail, and is probably where the wing wall abuts the hyphen. There is no other seam that would indicate that there was a doorway here. The southeast window has a six-over-six double-hung sash with ovolo muntins and 10-inch by 12-inch lights. It is not mortised and tenoned and pinned, and is a twentieth-century sash with parting beads and is hung on tapes. There is a doorway on the southwest that leads to a bathroom that is located within the hyphen, with the doorway passing through the masonry wall. The bathroom has all modern fixtures and a closet. It has a round-arched dormer on the southeast with a new sash, and hinges on the jamb for casements that opened in.

The passage has a doorway in the center of it that is missing its door. This doorway closes off the northeast end on the second story, which contains servant's rooms, from the family rooms at the southwest end in the hyphen and part of the wing. The architrave of this doorway has an ovolo



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backband, a broken field with an ogee at the break, and a beaded interior edge. There are three panels on the jambs and two on the soffit, and they are sunken and flat and have ogee panel moulds. The door trim is mortised and tenoned and pinned, and is probably reused. The chair rail in the passage blocks the door swing and had to be added after the door was removed. The passage has three steps down to the northeast addition.

In the northeast hyphen, the northwest chamber (Governor John Henry Room) has carpeting, and has baseboard, chair rail, and architrave that match the southeast chamber in the hyphen. The northwest sash matches the southeast chamber's six-over-six sash. The chamber is actually in the wing, and the northeast and southwest walls are both masonry. The southwest wall has a doorway to a bathroom and closet that are located within the hyphen. The bathroom has a round-arched dormer window on the northwest wall that matches the dormer in the southeast chamber.

The northeast wing east chamber (Governor William Paca Room) has carpeting, and baseboard that matches the passage. There is chair rail that is similar to the southeast chamber, with an ogee on the shelf, a large ogee under it, and a raised bead at the bottom. The architrave has a large ovolo at the edge of the frame. The southeast sash matches the southeast chamber six-over-six sash. The northeast wall was masonry with a chimney in the north corner. This chimney does not appear to be big enough to have held a fireplace for this room and the flue from the fireplace below. There is a wood cornice with an ovolo over a cavetto.

The northeast addition has plain mitered architrave with rounded edges. There are passages that run to the northeast, then turn to the northwest, then turn again to the northeast, with rooms on both sides. The same chair rail is carried throughout the passage. The baseboard has a fillet at the top and a small cavetto. There is a stairway in the west corner that goes down to the first story. All of the doors have six panels with sunken fields that have an ogee on the field and an ogee panel mould. The baseboard in all of the rooms has a quirked Greek ovolo and fillet and the sash are all twentieth-century six-over-six sash.

### **House, interior-basement**

The basement of the main block is divided into four rooms. The north room, which is in the rear addition, is the billiard room and has new baseboard and chair rail, and drywall. There is a safe on the southwest wall with a walk-in bank vault by the Mosler Safe Company of Hamilton, Ohio. The east room has rubble stone foundation walls that are whitewashed, with brick interior walls. The joists above are circular-sawn and wire-nailed. The floor below is concrete. Beneath the center passage, the northeast wall is brick with a round-arched opening in the center that has now been filled in with brick, and has had the southeast jamb rebuilt. There is a new opening to the southeast of this arched opening. In the basement of the main block of the house, both the southwest and the northeast ends have a stone

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foundation wall that is more than five feet inside of the gable ends. These foundation walls do not extend up to the bottom of the joists or a sill, and are not for supporting the fireplace, because they are too far away from the gable end foundations. It is not clear whether these are earlier foundation walls for a smaller building here, or what these were for.

The south basement room joists over head are hewn on both sides and the top, and still in the round on the bottom. They run northwest-southeast and are 7 to 10 inches deep and 6 to 8 inches wide. They span the whole width of the original main block, and have an added summer beam beneath the center of them. There is gauged and undercut flooring above that runs northeast-southwest. The joists are spaced 17 to 31 inches on centers, with most being 18 to 20 inches. The joists beneath the passage are replaced and run northeast-southwest. The southwest joist has two mortises in it for earlier joists that also ran southeast-northwest, or perhaps for a header and some other beam. These mortises are in the center and have corresponding mortises on the northeast joist next to the brick wall. There is a joist at the southeast end between these two joists that runs to the northwest but is cut off short of these mortises. It appears from this evidence that there was a stair to the cellar in the passage under the main stair, along the northeast wall of the passage, with flooring running northeast-southwest. A lot of the flooring above has thin battens covering the joints, with wire brads. The northwest wall, to the west, has a large round-arched opening with brick voussoirs. It had a pair of doors, one of which survives and has six lights over two lying panels. The door is hung on butt hinges with ball finials and is round-arched at the top. The southeast wall window openings have bricks set in Portland cement around them, and appear to be cut in.

The west basement room has circular-sawn joists that run northwest-southeast overhead, and they are 3 inches by 11 1/2 inches. This room has a poured concrete foundation. There is cross-bridging between the joists, fastened with wire nails. The northeast hyphen has brick walls and a concrete floor and ceiling, with a narrow walkway excavated, probably in the twentieth century.

### **Smokehouse**

The smokehouse is located about 15 feet northeast of the house, and is a one-story, one-bay by one-bay rubble stone structure with brick quoins at the doorway. It has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles, and faces southeast. The southeast elevation has a new door made of T1-11 siding, and the door frame is circular-sawn. There is a wood box cornice. The northeast elevation has no opening. The southwest elevation has several bricks that may be infill in what was a small vent. The northwest elevation is covered with vines. The interior has a concrete floor. The south half of the southeast wall is all brick on the interior. The joists overhead are hewn on top and bottom and run northwest-southeast. Some have cut nails in them, but mostly there are wire nails. There are outriggers on the northeast and southwest to support the hipped roof. The plates are also hewn only on the top and bottom, with some notches for joists or outriggers to lap over them. The outriggers are toe-nailed back to the joists with cut nails. The

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rafters are 2 by 4s and have narrow board sheathing. The east corner has a stone buttress in it. The door has diagonal boards with beads that are off center, and the boards are tongue-and-grooved and match the roof sheathing. There is a middle layer of tongue-and-grooved diagonal boards in the opposite direction, and this was the original exterior of this door. The door is hung on three machine-made strap hinges.

### **Pump House**

There is a pump house or well house located about 7 feet northeast of the smokehouse. It is a one-story, one-bay by one-bay frame structure with a brick and concrete foundation, German siding, and a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. There is a square box in the center of the roof that is short and covered with aluminum, but probably was originally a vent. The northeast elevation has a four-panel door with sunken fields and quirked Greek ogee panel moulds. It is hung on butt hinges with ball finials and has a mortise lock with a brass knob that dates to the twentieth century. The southeast and southwest elevations have no openings. The northwest elevation has a four-light sash in a bull-nose moulded frame that sits proud of the siding. There is a wood box cornice. The interior has a concrete floor with a round hole in the center and a large opening at the southeast end that is covered by boards. There is a brick-lined pit below. The building has bead-board half-wainscot, with circular-sawn lath with wire nails and plaster above the wainscot. The ceiling follows the pitch of the rafters, and there is a wood hatch door in the center that is hinged and opens to a bead-board-lined box that is closed off at the top with boards.

### **Barn**

The barn is located about 250 feet east of the house, and is a two-story banked rubble stone structure with a gable roof that has a northeast-southwest ridge. The barn is three bays by three bays, and is banked on the northwest. It has a frame forebay on the southeast that is supported with posts. The stone appears to be a mixture of granite, sandstone, and gneiss.

The southwest elevation, on the lower story, has a two-light sash with a granite lintel in both the west and center bays, and the edge of a lintel is visible in the south bay, but the opening is covered by a terra cotta tile silo. The lintels have drill holes. The upper story has two slit vents (one above the other) in the west and center bays. The south bay has one at the top, but not one below it. The gable end has two slit vents that are inset from each end. There are several granite quoins with a beveled corner that appear to have been cut for something else and may be reused. They have drill holes. The northwest elevation has a ramp up to the upper story, where there is a pair of vertical-board wagon doors hung on rollers, and infill above them of beaded-edge-and-center vertical boards. There are no openings in the end bays. There is a wood box cornice. The northeast elevation has a CMU addition attached to it, and two slit vents in the gable end of the barn above the addition. The east bay has one slit vent at the top that is still exposed.

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On the southeast elevation the lower story has two stone piers in the center, and they are rubble stones with quoins. The sill above is in two pieces and has a half-lap scarf joint. The stone piers at the end create a three-bay wall. There are posts on top of the sill on each pier, and they are mortised and tenoned and pegged to the sill. The posts and sill are all hewn. The soffit of the sill in the east bay has cut nails where posts were set against the east-center pier and 4 feet 6 inches east of it. There are other nails that all appear to be wire. The center bay has cut nails where six posts were. There was one post against each pier and the other posts were about 2 feet apart, with the two center posts being spaced about 3 feet 4 inches apart. This suggests that there was a center doorway, probably leading to an aisle on the interior. The south bay was a mirror image of the east bay, with the space to the south being 3 feet 9 inches. This suggests that there was a door at both the south and east ends with an aisle along the southwest and northeast walls. The southwest and northeast ends of the lower story probably served as stabling, with horses to the northeast, where the wider doorway was. The upper story of the southeast elevation has board-and-batten siding and a shed roofed addition on new pressure-treated wood posts. This addition is only two thirds the height of the barn, and the barn has board-and-batten siding above the roof of the addition, with stone exposed on the end walls.

The lower story of the barn has two summer beams that run northwest-southeast and are hewn on all four sides, with two posts under each that were probably added. The soffit of both summer beams has a series of one-inch diameter holes drilled in it for the whole length; these probably held the bars of a hay rack. Some of these holes are still filled with the ends of wood pins for bars, cut off flush with the summer beam. The joists are hewn on top and bottom and run northeast-southwest. The joists butt at the summer beams, and are set into pockets in the wall on the northeast. The southwest end is not visible because there is a tongue-and-grooved board ceiling here. The northeast elevation has a door in the center that has a wood lintel, and the southeast end of it has no bearing. The opening must be widened, but this is not obvious. There is a board-and-batten door in the opening. To each side is a six-light sash with a wood lintel, and there was a shutter on the interior, hinged at the bottom. There is a stone lintel with drill holes on the exterior side. The southwest elevation has a doorway to the east into the silo and windows in the center and south bays. The center window is wider and has splayed jambs, while the south window and the northeast elevation window have straight jambs.

The upper story has a hewn heavy-timber mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged frame of three bays. The northeast wall has a pair of vents in each of the three bays, one above the other. The southwest wall has a pair of vents, one above the other, in the west and center bays, but only one vent in the south bay. The barn has a center wagon floor. The southwest mow has a large girt set in the pocket in the northwest wall, and it was mortised and tenoned and pegged to the southeast post. The girt supports large log joists that are set into pockets in the southwest wall, and half of these joists have been removed. The top girt laps the plates, and has a post under the center with up braces. There are twelve abandoned mortises on the bottom face, suggesting that there were studs set into the girt. There are braced purlin struts on



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top of the girt. The northeast mow has a full-height center post with up braces to a lapped girt. There were two lower horizontals. On the northwest side the horizontal was set high, into a pocket in the wall and a mortise in the center post. On the southeast side the horizontal was set at the same height as the southeast mow girt, but was not as large. There are also purlin struts on top of the top girt. The end girts are set into the stone wall and sit proud of it about 1 ½ inches. The purlins appear to be sawn and are half-lapped in the center, with two pegs. The rafters are about 3 inches by 4 inches, are sawn, and are pegged at the ridge. It is not possible to see the ridge joint because a hay track has been put in the ridge. There were collar beams that were cut out. The rafters are all one piece and are notched slightly to lap over the purlins. There was also a lapped girt in the center of the hay mow, but it has been cut out. The southeast wall is frame and has four posts with up braces. The two center posts have had timber added to the northwest side of them and bolted to them, and this timber in part helps to support the girts that divide the threshing floor from the mows. The girt supports the ends of the outshot rafters, and above the girt are numerous studs that support the top plate. There is a large mortise on the southeast side of the post between the center threshing floor and the southwest mow, and this mortise aligns with the girt, suggesting that the girt continued into the outshot. This suggests that the outshot was original, but has been completely rebuilt. The present outshot has a granary at the southwest end.

There are several houses on the property, as well as a pool cabana and pool, tennis court, and a modern conference center. None of these buildings and structures was examined. They are all potentially contributing resources.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-43

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates 1738, c. 1760s, c. 1815, 1927

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary:

"Belmont" is located on what was a 1,360-acre tract of land patented in 1695 by Mordecai Moore as "Moore's Morning Choice." The land was acquired by Caleb Dorsey, Sr. (of Hockley-in-the-Hole) at an unknown date and sold to his son, Caleb Dorsey, Jr. in 1732. Caleb, Jr. married Priscilla Hill in 1734/5. The existing house has two virtually identical plaques on it with the initials of Caleb and Priscilla Dorsey, and the date "1738." This date has traditionally been taken as the date of construction of the existing house, but it seems more likely that Caleb, Jr. built a smaller structure, probably of frame, on the property in 1738 and replaced it with a larger brick dwelling once his iron business provided the necessary means. Caleb Dorsey died in 1772 and "Belmont" went to his younger son, Edward Hill. At his death in 1799 Edward's widow, Elizabeth controlled "Belmont." The first recorded glimpse one gets of "Belmont" is with the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, which notes that one wing of the brick house was not finished. Elizabeth Dorsey died young, too, in 1802, but Edward's estate was not divided until 1815. Apparently Priscilla Dorsey, who had married Alexander Contee Hanson, received "Belmont." Hanson died in 1819 and Priscilla retained control of "Belmont" until her death in 1849. She left the property to her son Charles Grosvenor Hanson in trust for his life, and insured that it would pass to his children. Some of them continued to live at "Belmont" until the last of them to reside there, "Nannie," died in 1917. In 1917 "Belmont" was acquired by Mary Graham Bruce, who was a cousin of the Hansons. A decade later she enlarged the house by putting two rooms on the rear of the main block and deepening both hyphens. The original roof line was preserved in the front by building a flat roof between the original ridge and the ridge of the new addition. As a result, the house appears much as it always did on the southeast.

### Significance:

"Belmont" is located on what was a 1,360-acre tract of land patented in 1695 by Mordecai Moore as "Moore's Morning Choice." The land was acquired by Caleb Dorsey, Sr. (of Hockley-in-the-Hole) at an unknown date and sold to his son, Caleb Dorsey, Jr. (18 July 1710 – 28 June 1772), in 1732. Included in the sale was 200 acres of the tract "Dorsey's Chance." Caleb, Jr. married Priscilla Hill (9 May 1718 – 8

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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March 1782) on 10 February 1734/5. The existing house has two virtually identical plaques on it with the initials of Caleb and Priscilla Dorsey, and the date "1738." This date has traditionally been taken as the date of construction of the existing house, and according to architectural historian James Kornwolf the plaques are of cast iron. Examination of them calls this into doubt, since a magnet did not show any "attraction" to the plaque, even where the admittedly thick paint was cut through. This revealed only a very small section of the surface, but it appeared to be stone, not iron. The date of the house must also be questioned, since the paneling that survives inside seems more consistent with the 1750s or '60s than the 1730s. While this is admittedly not much on which to base a date of construction, the foundation of the house has end walls that are shorter than the existing house, suggesting that "Belmont" was built on an earlier foundation. While that building cannot be dated, it seems more likely that Caleb, Jr. built a smaller structure, probably of frame, on the property in 1738 and replaced it with a larger brick dwelling once his iron business provided the necessary means. Elk Ridge Furnace was founded by Alexander Lawson, Edward Dorsey, and Caleb Dorsey, Jr. in 1755, making a cast-iron plaque unlikely before that date, and suggesting, too, that a grander house would have followed that date. The house was a center-passage single-pile plan and must have had the stairway in the passage, along the northeast wall. This wall, and the rear (northwest) wall have modern paneling that were installed when the stairway and rear door were removed in the 1920s (see below). The southwest room retains original paneling on three walls, with closets flanking the fireplace. The firebox and surround have been altered, as has the northwest wall. The northeast room has been completely remodeled in the 1920s, with the original fireplace closed off behind a new stairway. Nothing more can be said about the original configuration of this room.<sup>1</sup>

Caleb Dorsey owned substantial property beyond "Belmont" at his death in 1772. The land to the west, around Routes 29, 175 and 100, was left to his son, Samuel, and "Belmont" and adjoining lands went to his younger son, Edward Hill (2 September 1758 – 24 March 1799). The two brothers operated the ironworks together, and Edward is often referred to as "Iron-head Ned." At his death in 1799 Edward ordered that his real estate be divided once his eldest son reached his majority, with tracts other than "Belmont" sold off as needed to provide for the family's needs. Until that time, his widow, Elizabeth Dorsey, a cousin whom he had married in 1786, controlled "Belmont." The first recorded glimpse one

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<sup>1</sup> John H. Scarff, "Belmont, Howard County." *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 48, no. 1 (March 1953): 38-39. Cleora Barnes Thompson, "Belmont," HO-43, Maryland Inventory of Historic Places, Maryland Historical Trust, n.d. Harry Wright Newman, *Anne Arundel Gentry*, v. 2 (Lewes, DE: Colonial Roots, 1971), pp. 172-74. James D. Kornwolf, *Architecture and Town Planning in Colonial North America*, 3 vols. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002), pp. 783-84. Ronald W. Fuchs II, "'At Elk Ridge Furneis As You See, William Williams He Mad Me': The Story of an Eighteenth-Century Maryland Iron Furnace." *Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts* (winter 1996): 40-59. John McGrain, "Molinography in Maryland," "Howard County, ElkrIDGE Furnace," typescript, Maryland Historical Society. Henry K. Sharp, *The Patapsco River Valley: Cradle of the Industrial Revolution in Maryland*. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 2001), p. 27.

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gets of "Belmont" is with the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, and the appraisal must have been made in 1799, because Elizabeth Dorsey was the occupant and the owners were listed as "Edward Dorsey (of Caleb's) heirs." The improvements were listed as: "1 story brick dwelling house 50 by 24[,] passage at each end 16 feet[,] 2 wings 2 story 30 by 20[,] one not finished brick[,] 1 stone out house 20 by 16[,] 1 d<sup>o</sup> 18 by 16." Edward's heirs also held 36 slaves from his estate, 21 of whom were between the ages of 12 and 50 and healthy enough to work (and thus be taxed). The existing hyphens are 18 feet long and are clearly the passages noted in the tax records, while the wings are 22 by 30 feet and are clearly the wings. What is not clear is whether the hyphens and wings were new construction or were being remodeled. The rear wall of the southwest hyphen has three open arches that appear to be original and suggest that this may have been the configuration of the front wall, as well. The use of the term "passage" also implies an open but roofed connector between two buildings. The southwest wing is finished with a marble mantel, architrave with corner blocks, and curved corners to the room. These features must date to after 1810, suggesting that this wing was the unfinished one. The northeast wing most likely held the kitchen, and the hyphen connecting it to the house was also probably open. The kitchen may have been contemporary with the main block of the house, though it would have been only of one story, raising the possibility that the other wing was, too, if not the hyphens.<sup>2</sup>

Elizabeth Dorsey died young, too, in 1802, but Edward's estate was not divided until 1815. Apparently, Priscilla Dorsey (24 October 1789 – 1849), who had married Alexander Contee Hanson (27 February 1786 – 23 April 1819), received "Belmont" while her sister, Mary Dorsey, the wife of Daniel Murray, received what came to be known as "Rockburn." It was John Scarff's supposition that the name "Belmont" dated to this division, and that seems reasonable. Priscilla married in 1805, and it was possibly she and her husband who were responsible for completing the house after 1815. They were probably also responsible for the roughcasting of the house, not only because of its popularity at the time, but because it would have disguised the fact that the house was built and altered at different times. Hanson, the grandson of U. S. President John Hanson under the Articles of Confederation, founded the Baltimore Federal Gazette newspaper in 1808 and was strongly pro-British and opposed to Jefferson's, and later Madison's, administrations. This stance became dangerous after war was declared in 1812. Hanson and some friends were attacked at the newspaper office in 1812, were moved to the jail for their own safety, and were attacked when they tried to leave the jail. General "Light Horse Harry" Lee was killed and Hanson and his other friends were severely wounded. Hanson moved his newspaper to Georgetown that year, was elected Congressman the following year, retired in 1815, then filled the vacancy of Senator Robert Goodloe Harper in 1816, after Harper's death. Hanson died in 1819, having

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<sup>2</sup> Caleb Dorsey Estate, Will 38-819, Register of Wills, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, Maryland State Archives. Newman, *Anne Arundel Gentry*, p. 192. Edward Dorsey of Caleb Estate, Will JG 2-73, Register of Wills, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, Maryland State Archives. Federal Direct Tax, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1798, Maryland State Archives. Carl R. Lounsbury, ed., *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), pp. 262-63.



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never really recovered from the attack seven years earlier. Hanson used "Belmont" as a retreat from his political and personal troubles. In 1815 he wrote from Georgetown: "I mean to retire to Belmont . . . . The fields have been barely scratched by shallow one-horse ploughs, the blue grass has eaten out the wheat, and in some spots the sedge and wild briar have taken entire possession, while the old mansion for the want of a few necessary repairs in due time is almost in a state of dilapidation." The repairs, if he made them, could have included finishing the wing and enclosing the passages. The repairs to the house and outbuildings seem to have occurred over several years, since there is a letter from Hanson to his wife, at "Belmont," stating: "I should like very much by the time I paid my next visit to see the store room papered and that above, and the roof plastered and pitched to prevent leaking, also the doors with ledges to keep out rain from the school room." Whether this room was in the house, or was a separate structure, is not known.<sup>3</sup>

Priscilla Dorsey Hanson retained control of "Belmont" until her death in 1849. She left the property to her son and only surviving child, Charles Grosvenor Hanson (16 May 1816 – 17 October 1880), in trust for his life, and insured that it would pass to his wife Ann Maria Worthington (17 September 1821 – 11 March 1873) during her life and then to their children. The Howard County Sheriff sold "Belmont" in 1875, two years after the death of Ann Maria, but four years later, in a suit by the children of Charles G. Hanson, it was decreed that "Belmont" was the property of the children. They continued to live at "Belmont" until the last of them to reside there, "Nannie," died in 1917. In 1896 Dr. John Williamson Palmer gave a description of the property. Palmer was born in Baltimore, studied medicine at the University of Maryland, travelled through Asia, and settled in New York, where he wrote travel sketches. Of "Belmont" he wrote: "The walls of the hall and drawing room were paneled in oak; and the grounds in front and rear were terraced in the large old English fashion, while the boxwood in the garden, gigantic now, seems still to babble of the sweet old times when Caleb and Priscilla set it out." Palmer seems to have been the first to describe the paneling as being oak, but this has not been confirmed, and there is nothing about the heavily-painted woodwork that would clearly indicate that it is oak. Palmer only mentions the hall and drawing room as being paneled, suggesting that the other main room, probably a dining room since it was on the side of the kitchen, was not paneled.<sup>4</sup>

This possibility was contradicted by John Martin Hammond in his 1914 book *Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware*. He stated: "The centre building is traversed by a hallway running from front to back, and the wings are connected with the main body of the house. The downstairs rooms and the hall are beautifully paneled with oak from floor to ceiling . . . . In the right wing is the kitchen; in the

<sup>3</sup> Scarff, "Belmont," pp. 42-46. Maryland Historical Society File Case "A," "Hanson." Joseph Herman Schauinger, "Alexander Contee Hanson, Federalist Partisan." *Maryland Historical Magazine* 35 (1940): 354-64.

<sup>4</sup> Scarff, "Belmont," p. 46-47. Thompson, "Belmont," HO-43. John Williamson Palmer, "Certain Worthies and Dames of Old Maryland," *The Century* 51, no. 4 (February 1896): 495. Quoted in J. D. Warfield, *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland* (Baltimore: Kohn & Pollock, 1905), p. 340.

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left wing is the ball-room, an octagonal apartment, generous in size, paneled in oak and with a large open fireplace. The second floor is occupied by sleeping rooms. The entrance is a graceful Georgian portico. At the back of the house is a broad and comfortable veranda overlooking the old garden, of which there remains a box-hedge, believed to have been planted when the mansion was built, and now over twenty feet in height . . . . The ground on which the house is placed is terraced . . . ." Much of Hammond's discourse could simply be a restatement and expansion of what Palmer wrote, but there are several items that Hammond includes, which Palmer did not. Most notable is the discussion of the ball-room, which Hammond states is octagonal and has oak paneling. The existing room has rounded corners, which could be loosely interpreted as octagonal, but is not paneled and the existing finishes are old. Nowhere else in the house was old material reused in the 1920s alterations; rather, the additions were given a generally high-end Colonial Revival treatment. Thus, Hammond may have remembered paneling in the southwest wing when he wrote about "Belmont," but the wing most likely was never paneled. This raises a question about what he recalled of other rooms in the house. Photographs of the exterior of the house at this time show that the front of the house has changed very little. The back, or garden elevation, unfortunately was not photographed.<sup>5</sup>

In 1917 "Belmont" was acquired by Mary Graham Bruce, who was a cousin of the Hansons. A decade later she removed the rear verandah that Hammond described and enlarged the house by putting two rooms on the rear of the main block and deepening both hyphens. The original roof line was preserved in the front by building a flat roof between the original ridge and the ridge of the new addition. As a result, the house appears much as it always did on the southeast. The stairway in the center passage was removed and a new one constructed in the east room of the main block. At the same time, the floor of this room was dropped several feet. The interior of the northeast hyphen and wing were completely rebuilt. A service wing with large kitchen was added to the northeast end of the northeast wing. A curved pair of stairs on the rear elevation is old, but it is not known whether this was re-used from the original rear doorway, or whether it came from another building. The architect of this work is not known. They were also probably responsible for the pool and other landscape structures and features that are representative of their era and are worthy of additional consideration. These were the last significant changes to the house, but other buildings have been added to the grounds. Of the outbuildings, the most significant is the stone bank barn, which is an English Lake District type of barn that had a forebay built on posts; this forebay has been completely rebuilt. The barn most likely dates to the 1840s or 1850s, and has had dendro-chronology performed on it, but the results of this are unknown. The front and rear terraces are still prominently visible and clearly man-made. In 1964 "Belmont"

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<sup>5</sup> John Martin Hammond, *Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware*. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1914), pp. 174-75.

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became a conference center for the Smithsonian Institution. It continues in that function, now owned by the Howard County Community College, but is currently on the market.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Scarff, "Belmont," p. 50.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-43

See footnotes

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 7 A  
Acreage of historical setting 1,560 A  
Quadrangle name Relay

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries begin where the drive into the property reaches the circular drive in front of the main house, and follows this drive northeast to the road into the parking lot by the barn. The boundary then follows around this parking lot to include the barn and turns northwest to connect with the circular drive around the conference center, following the drive on the southeast side of the conference center and excluding it. The boundary then runs southwest and turns west along the drive that parallels the rear garden, to the end, and turns southwest to include the cemetery, running along a fence line and following this fence line as it turns southeast, thence in a straight line to the beginning.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	March 2010
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



1/11

Belmont HO-43  
Exterior Mouldings

KMS  
9 Sept. '09

Date  
Plaque  
Panel  
Mould

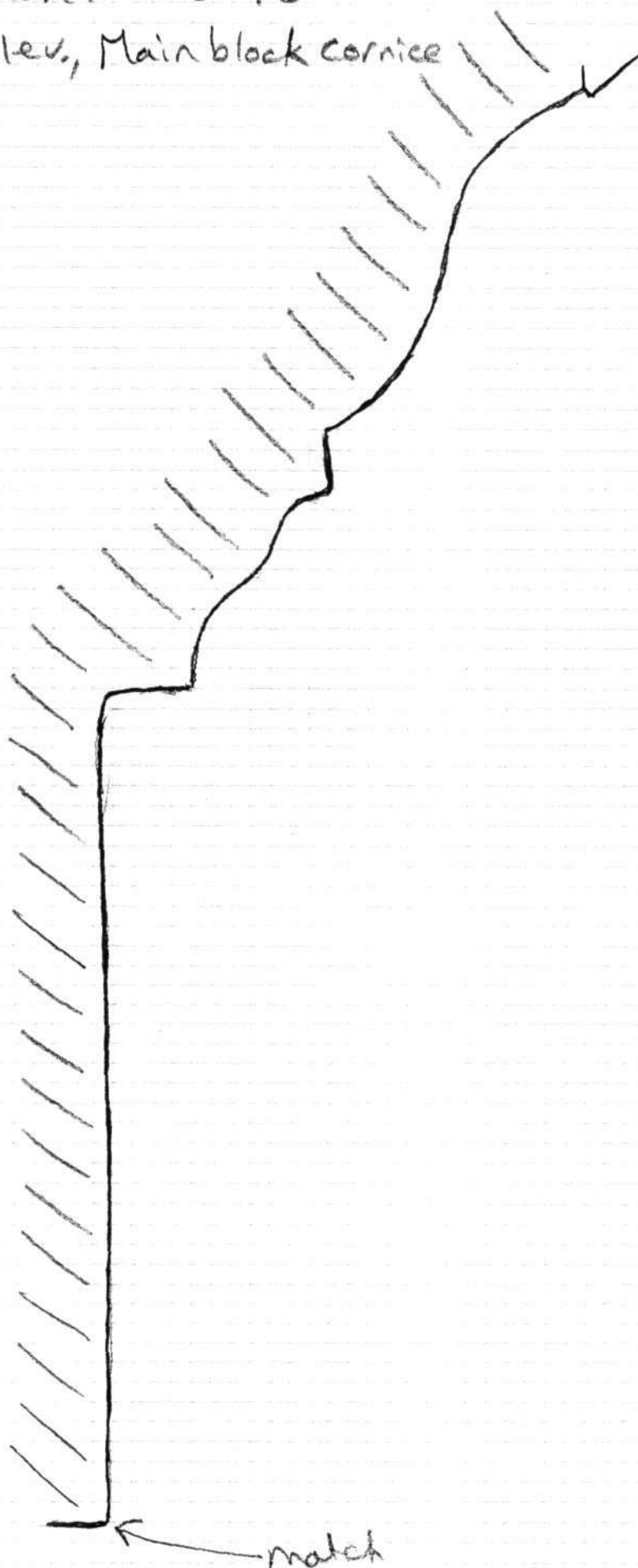
Front Door Panel Moulds

Stile

panel

2A/11 Belmont HO-43  
SE elev., Main block cornice

KMS  
8 Dec. '09



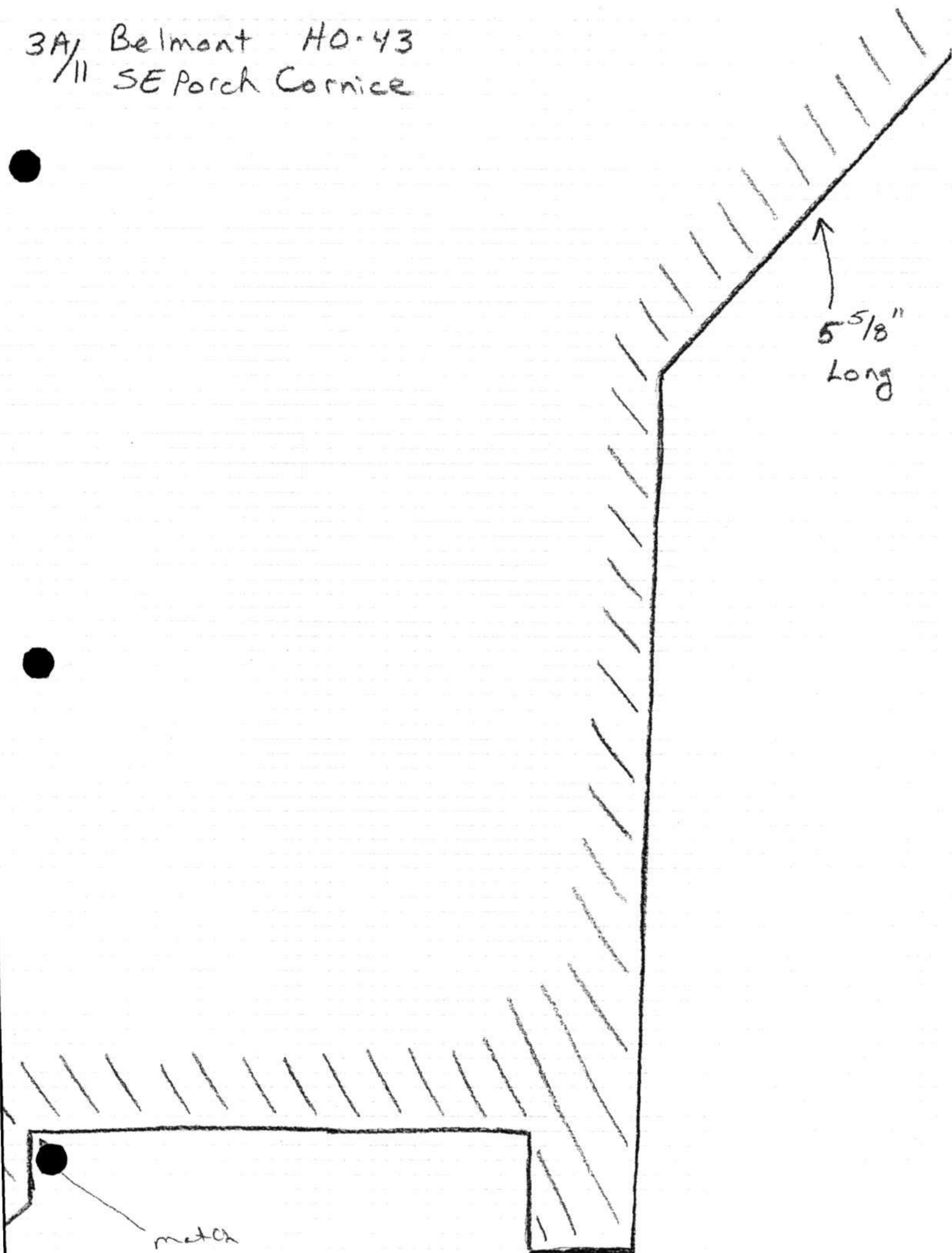
2B/11

Belmont HO-43  
SE elev., Main block cornice

KMS  
8 Dec '09



3A/ Belmont HO-43  
11 SE Porch Cornice

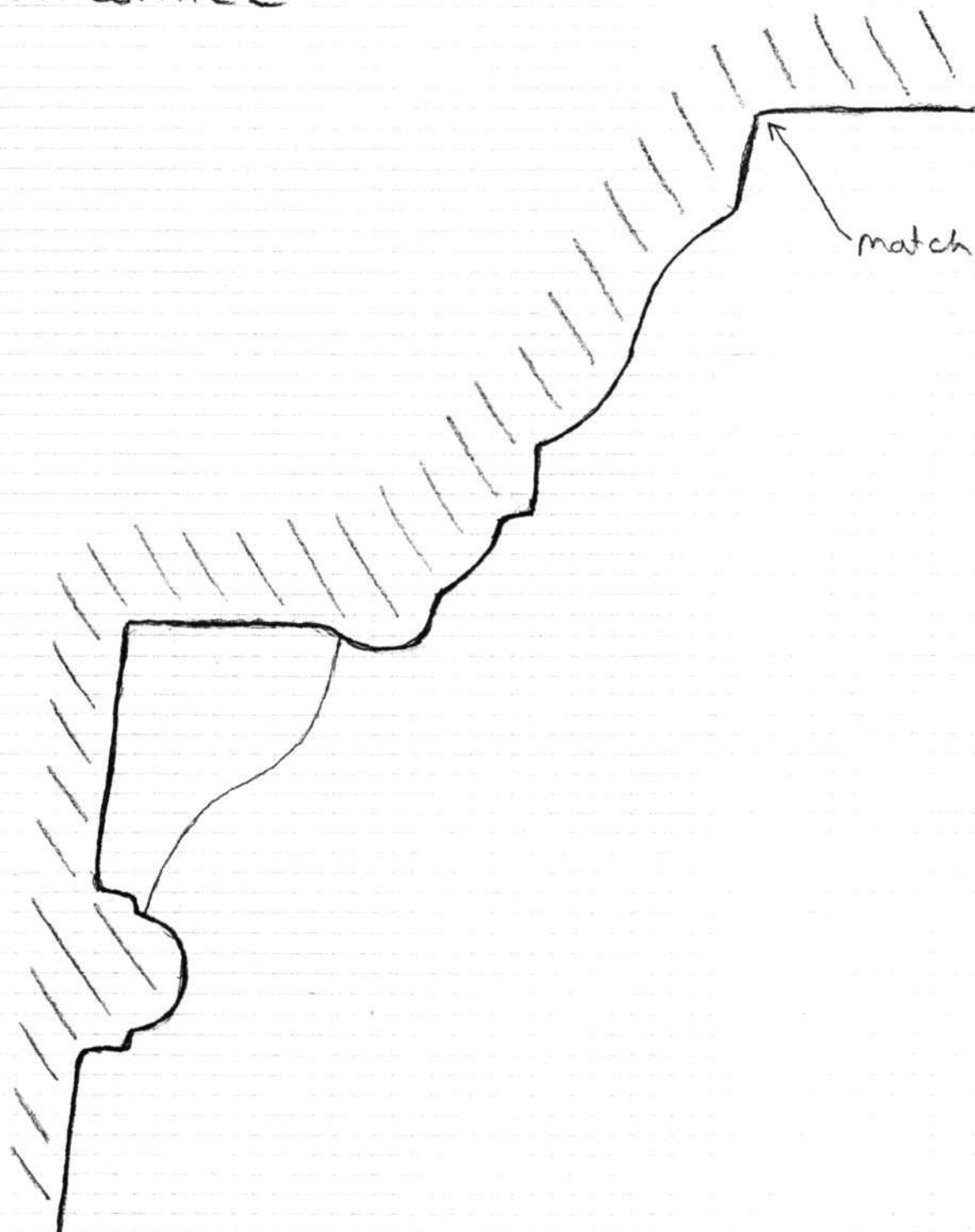


match

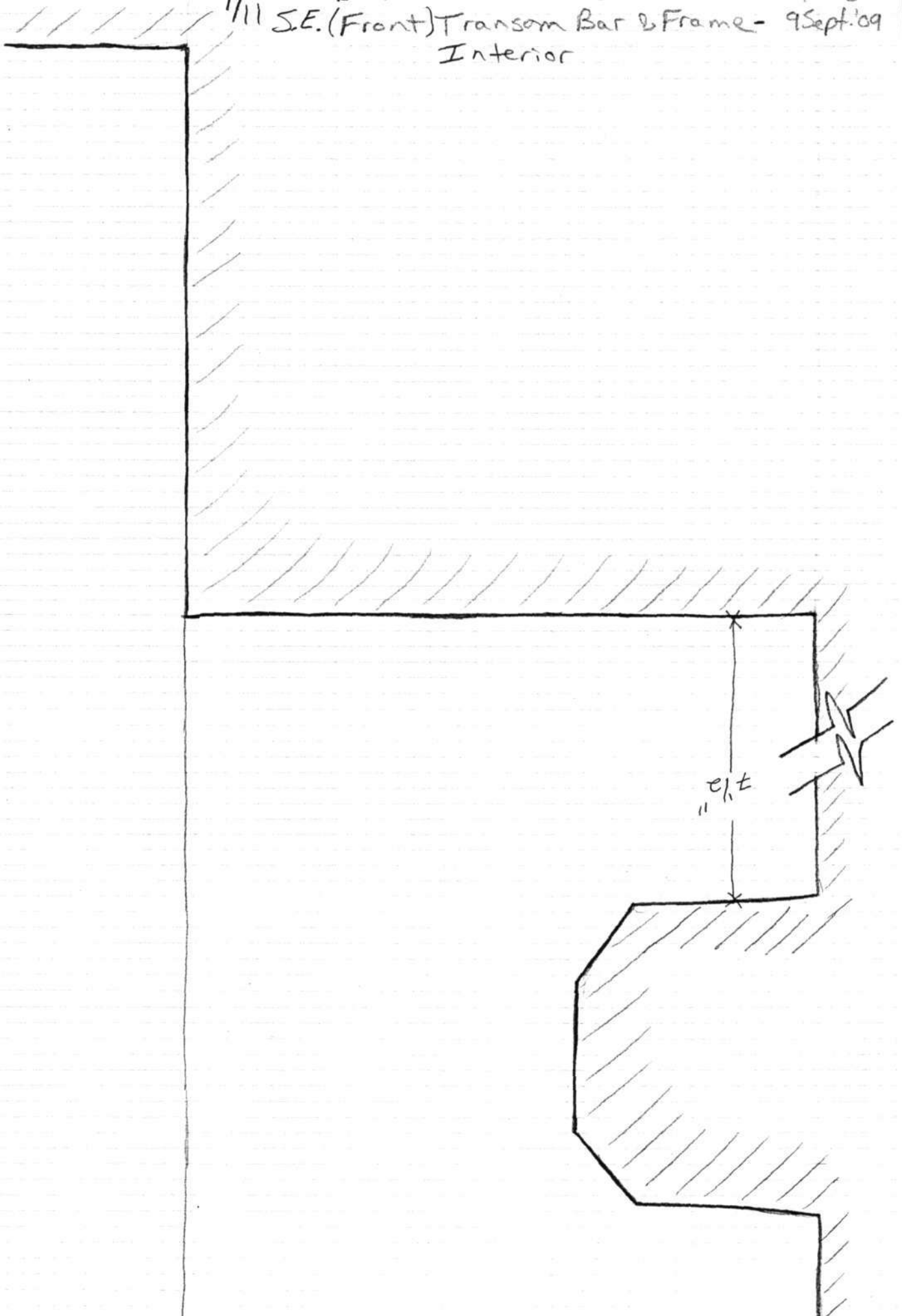


3B/11 Belmont HO-43  
SE Porch Cornice

KMS  
8 Dec. '09

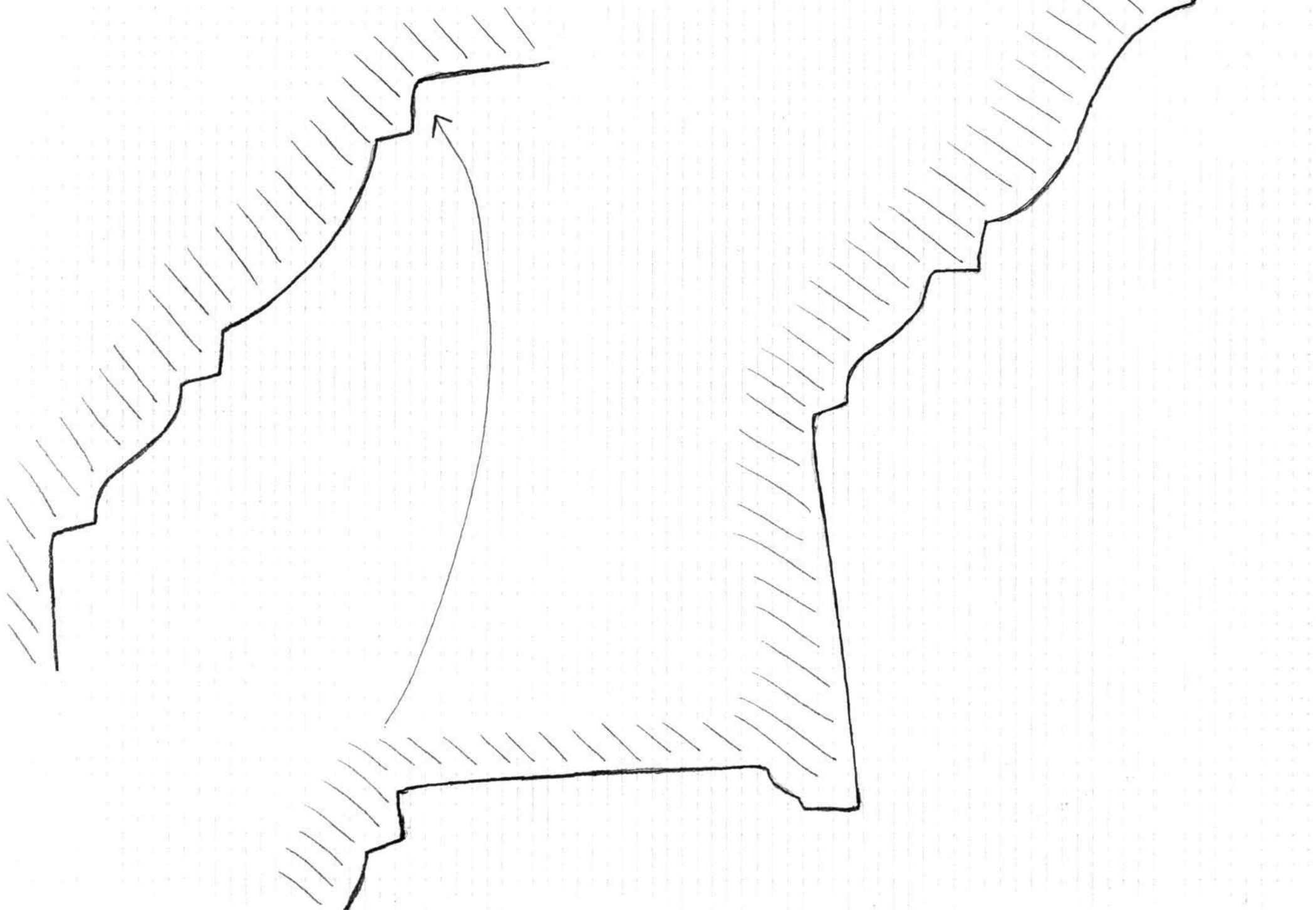


4/11 Belmont HO-43 KMS  
S.E. (Front) Transom Bar & Frame - 9 Sept '09  
Interior



5/11 Belmont HO-43  
Passage Cornice

KMS  
9 Sept. '09



6/11 Belmont HO-43  
Moulding Profiles

KMS  
9 Sept. '09

● Panel  
Mould

South  
Room  
Architrave  
(Door)

Passage  
Architrave

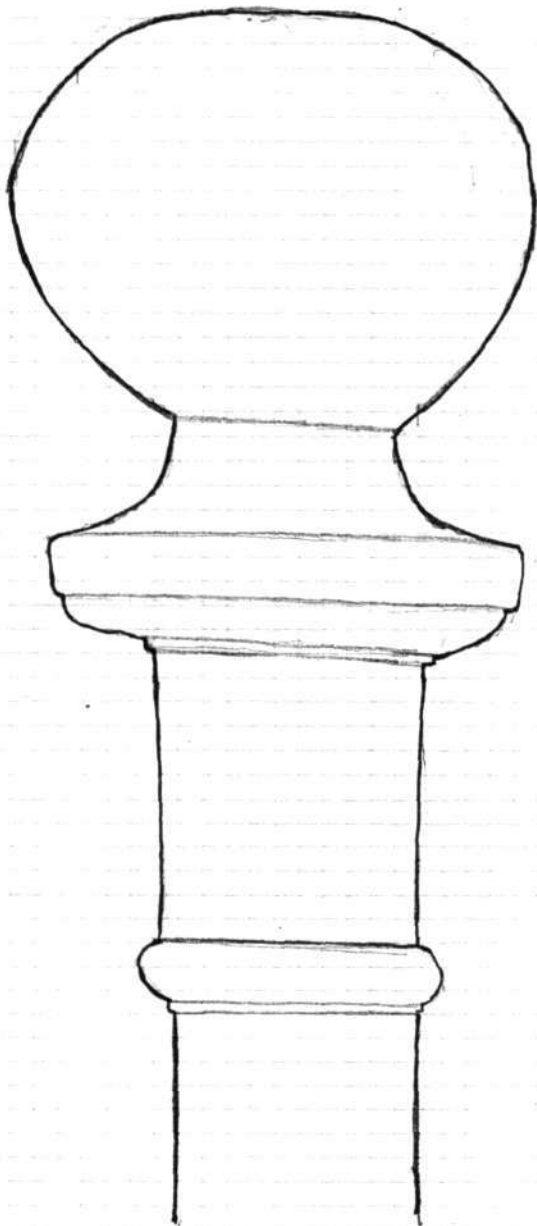
● Chair  
Rail



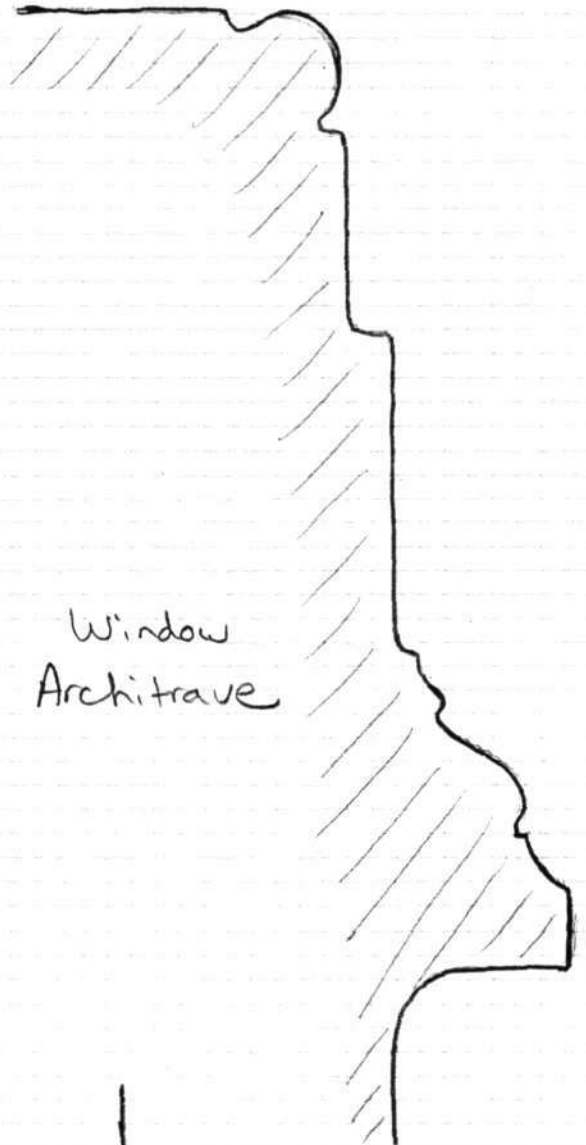


7/11 Belmont HO-43  
S.W. Hyphen

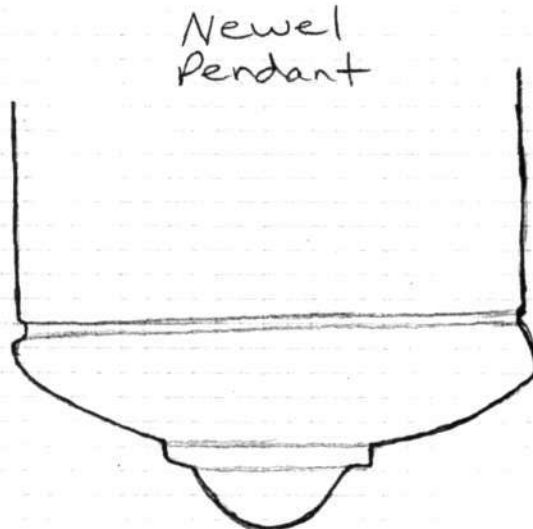
KMS  
9 Sept. '09



Handrail  
&  
Newel



Window  
Architrave



Newel  
Pendant

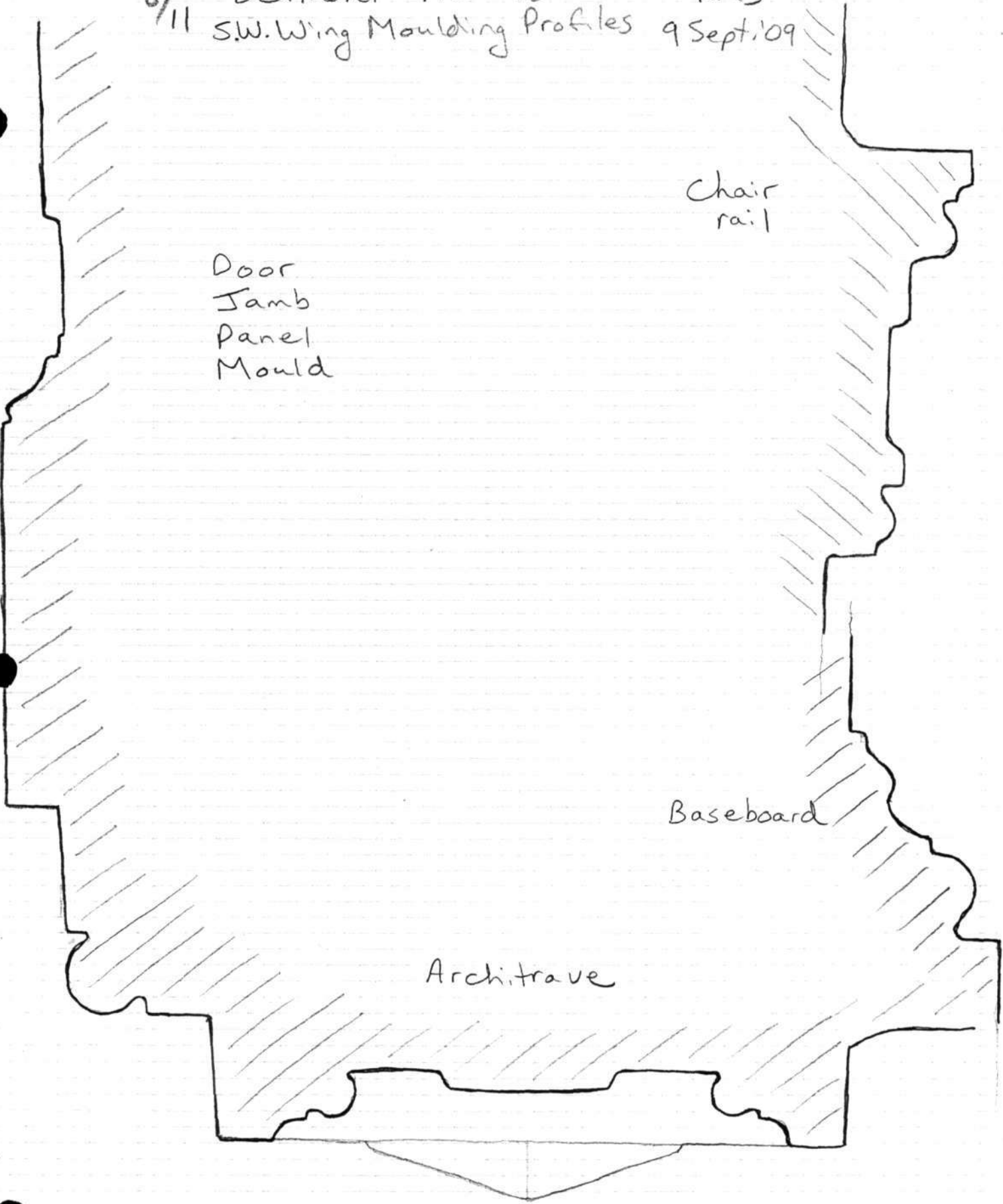
8/11 Belmont HO-43 KMS  
S.W. Wing Moulding Profiles 9 Sept '09

Chair  
rail

Door  
Jamb  
Panel  
Mould

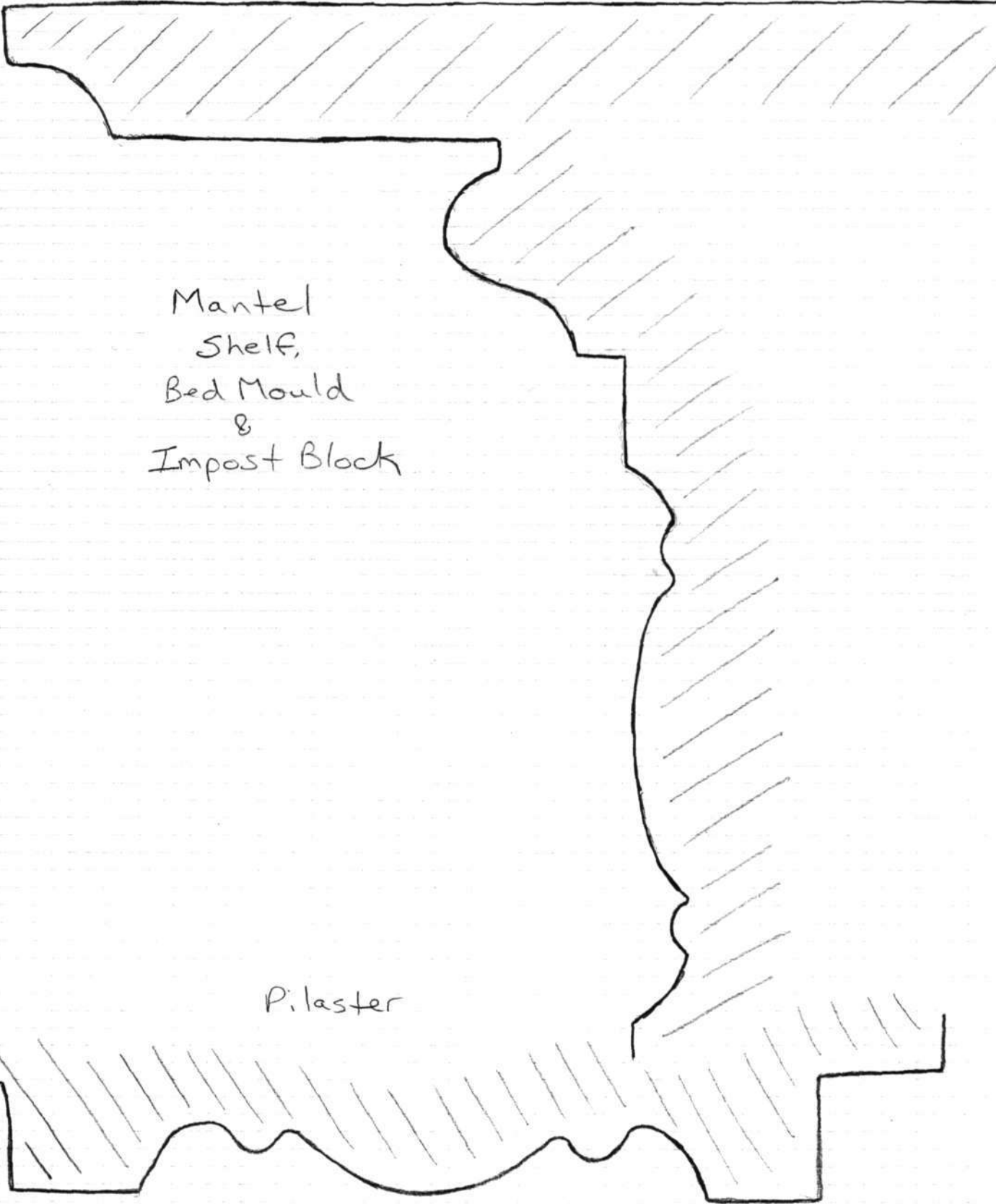
Baseboard

Architrave

A hand-drawn sketch of a door frame and architrave profile. The sketch is drawn on a piece of paper with three binder holes on the left side. The door frame is shown in profile, with the top, side, and bottom sections. The top section is labeled "Door Jamb Panel Mould". The side section is labeled "Chair rail". The bottom section is labeled "Baseboard". The architrave is shown below the baseboard, with a label "Architrave" pointing to it. The sketch is drawn with a black pen and includes diagonal hatching for shading.

9/11 Belmont HO-43  
S.W. Wing Mantel Moulding Profiles

KMS  
9 Sept. '09



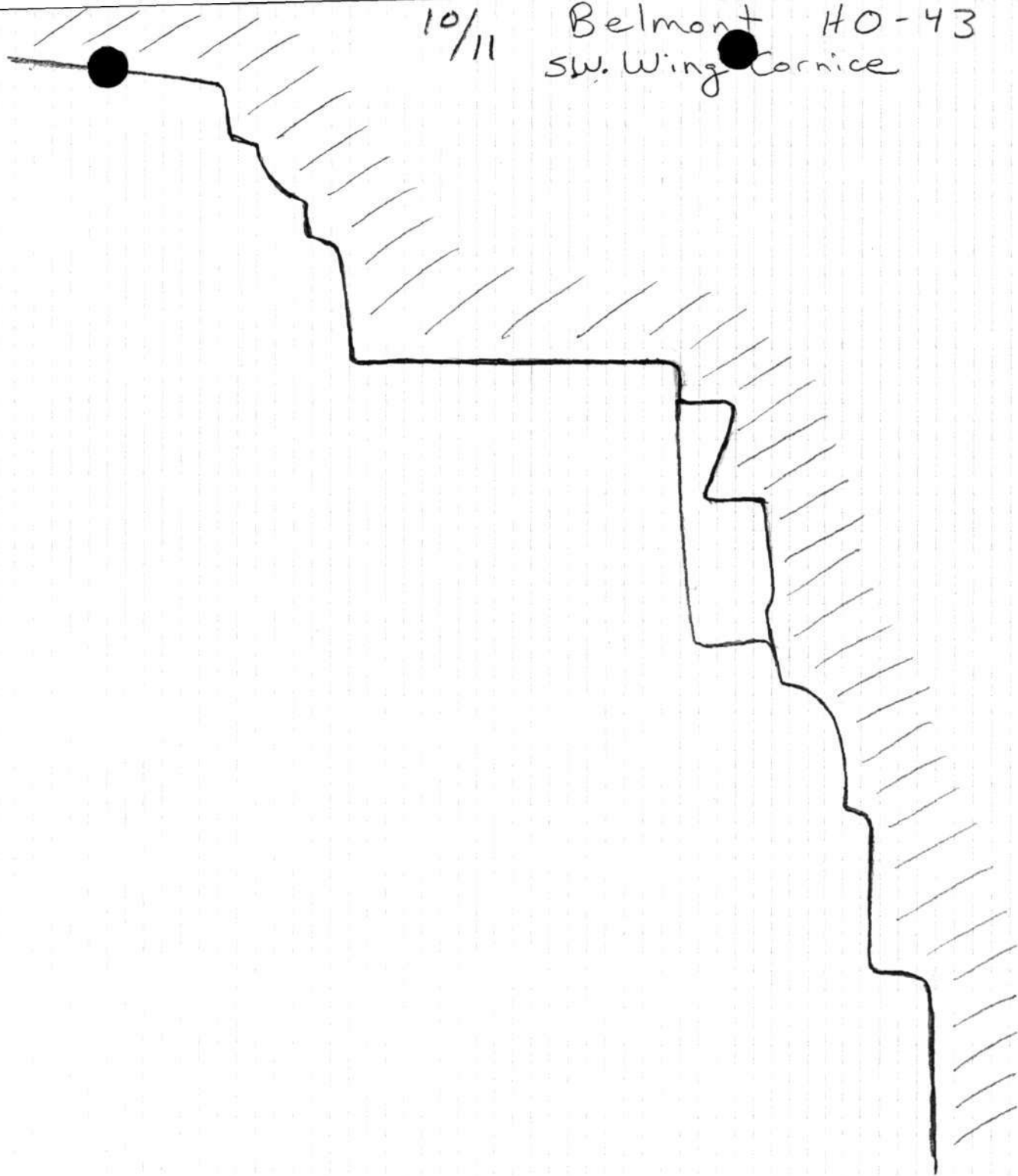
Mantel  
Shelf,  
Bed Mould  
&  
Impost Block

Pilaster

10/11

Belmont HO-43  
SW. Wing Cornice

MS  
9 Sept. '09

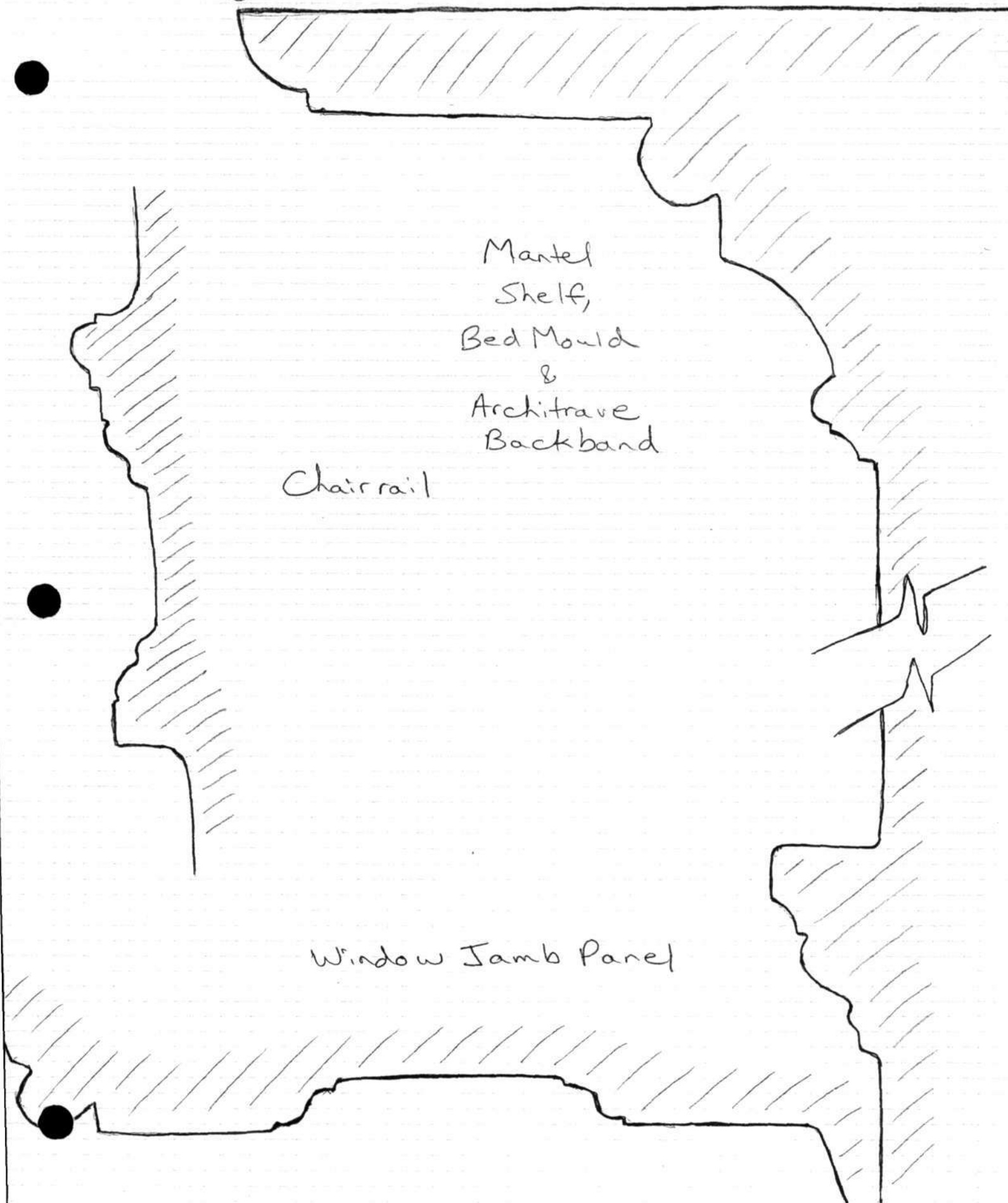




11/11

Belmont HO-43  
SW.Wing, SE Chamber Moulding Profiles

KMS  
9 Sept. '09





HO-43  
"Belmont"  
6555 Belmont Woods Road  
Site Plan

Average Scale: 1 inch = 113.4 feet

Copyright ©2009 Pictometry International Corp.

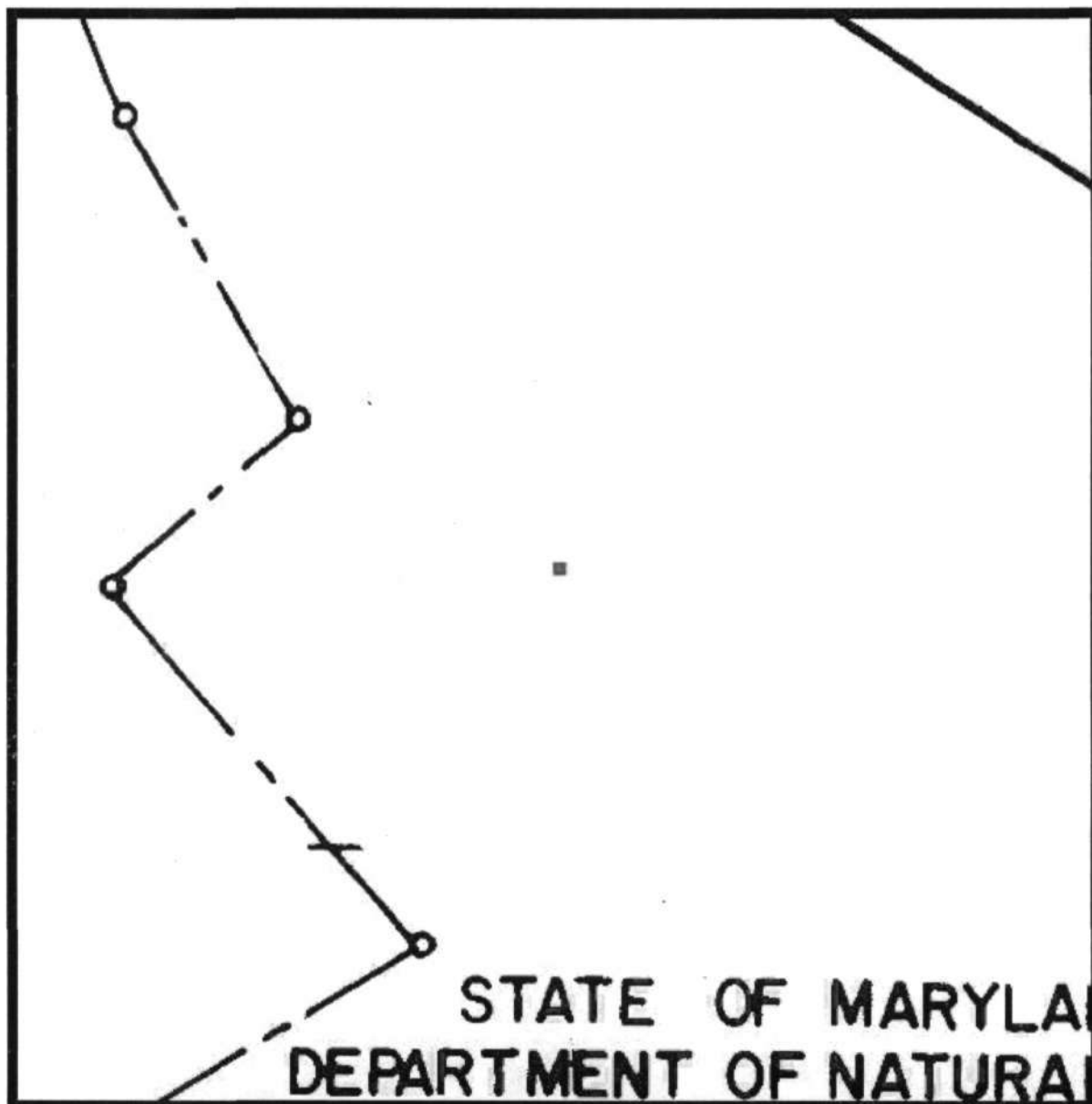
Ho-43



**Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation**  
**HOWARD COUNTY**  
**Real Property Data Search**

[Go Back](#)  
[View Map](#)  
[New Search](#)

**District - 01**   **Account Number - 180495**



The information shown on this map has been compiled from deed descriptions and plats and is not a property survey. The map should not be used for legal descriptions. Users noting errors are urged to notify the Maryland Department of Planning Mapping, 301 W. Preston Street, Baltimore MD 21201.

If a plat for a property is needed, contact the local Land Records office where the property is located. Plats are also available online through the Maryland State Archives at [www.plats.net](http://www.plats.net).

Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2009.  
For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning web site at [www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/OurProducts.shtml](http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/OurProducts.shtml)

H0-43



**Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation**  
**HOWARD COUNTY**  
**Real Property Data Search** (2007 vw3.1e)

[Go Back](#)  
[View Map](#)  
[New Search](#)

**Account Identifier:** District - 01 **Account Number -** 180495

**Owner Information**

**Owner Name:** HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
**Use:** EXEMPT COMMERCIAL  
**Principal Residence:** NO  
**Mailing Address:** 10901 LITTLE PATUXENT PKWY  
 COLUMBIA MD 21044-3110  
**Deed Reference:** 1)  
 2)

**Location & Structure Information**

**Premises Address**  
 6555 BELMONT WOODS RD  
 ELKRIDGE 21075  
**Legal Description**  
 68.1924 A.  
 6555 BELMONT WOODS RD  
 BELMONT

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Assessment Area	Plat No:
32	19	2						3	Plat Ref:

**Special Tax Areas**  
**Town**  
**Ad Valorem** NO A/V, NO FIRE TAX  
**Tax Class**

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
0000	20,737 SF	68.19 AC	
Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior
		RENTAL	

**Value Information**

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2009	Phase-in Assessments As Of 07/01/2009	As Of 07/01/2010
<b>Land</b>	3,509,500	5,400,600		
<b>Improvements:</b>	1,052,200	1,293,100		
<b>Total:</b>	4,561,700	6,693,700	5,272,366	5,983,032
<b>Preferential Land:</b>	0	0	0	0

**Transfer Information**

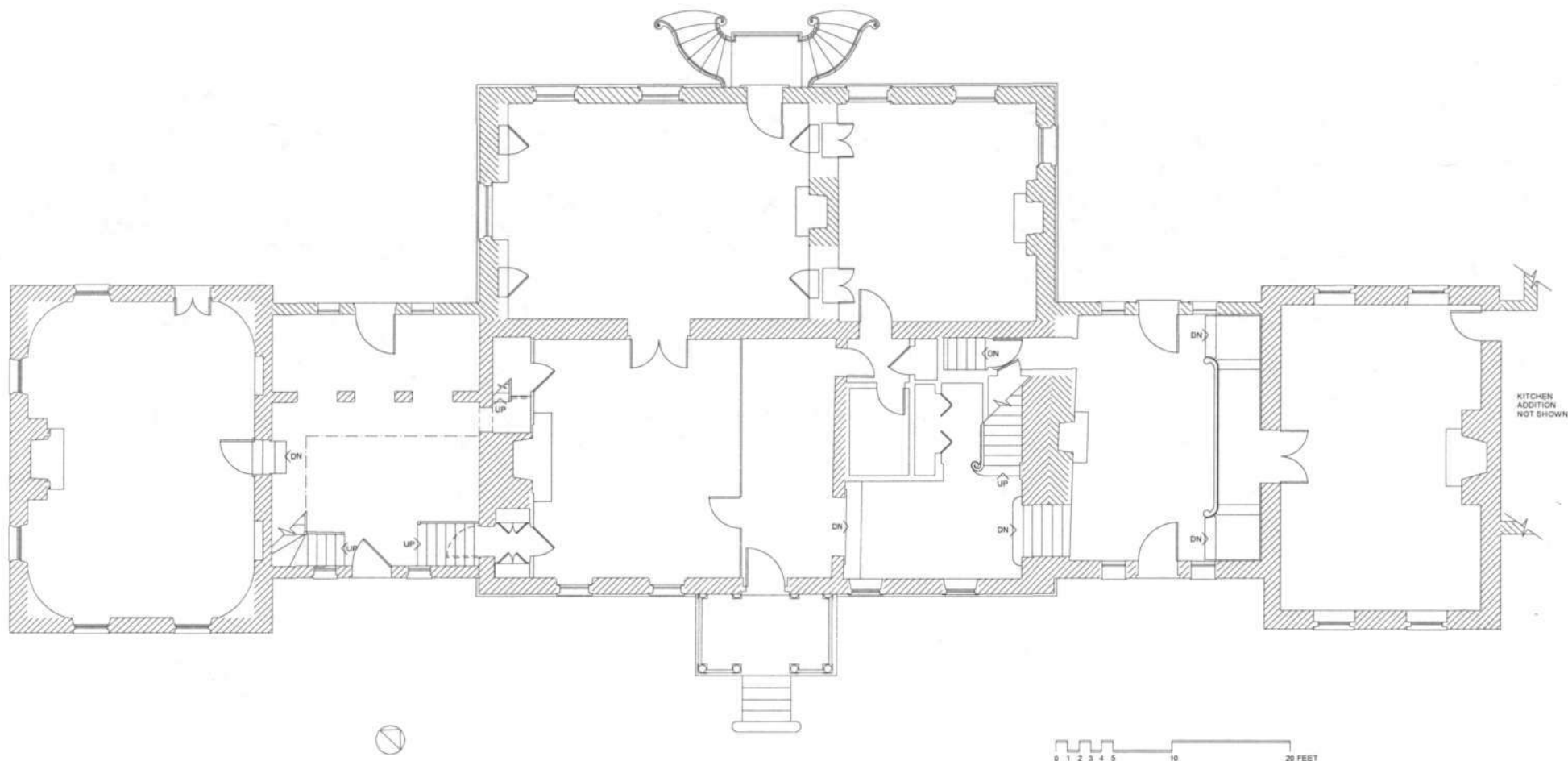
<b>Seller:</b> THE HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	<b>Date:</b> 11/24/2008	<b>Price:</b> \$4,431,900
<b>Type:</b> NOT ARMS-LENGTH	<b>Deed1:</b>	<b>Deed2:</b>
<b>Seller:</b> AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY	<b>Date:</b> 11/23/2004	<b>Price:</b> \$4,800,000
<b>Type:</b> IMPROVED ARMS-LENGTH	<b>Deed1:</b> / 8797/ 298	<b>Deed2:</b>
<b>Seller:</b> SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION	<b>Date:</b> 09/20/1983	<b>Price:</b> \$78,000
<b>Type:</b> IMPROVED ARMS-LENGTH	<b>Deed1:</b> / 1191/ 157	<b>Deed2:</b>

**Exemption Information**

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2009	07/01/2010
<b>County</b>	000	0	0
<b>State</b>	000	0	0
<b>Municipal</b>	000	0	0

**Tax Exempt:** COUNTY AND STATE  
**Exempt Class:** SCHOOLS (PUBLIC, INCLUDING JUNIOR COLL.)  
**Special Tax Recapture:** \* NONE \*





## HO-43 "BELMONT" 6555 BELMONT WOODS ROAD

FIRST FLOOR PLAN -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT, THOMAS RINEHART, MARCIA MILLER, & STEVE ROLLS -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- OCTOBER 2009

HO-43  
"Belmont"  
6555 Belmont Woods Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera  
HP Premium Plus paper  
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_01  
House, southeast elevation

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_09  
House, interior, passage vw. south

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_02  
House, southeast elevation, portico

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_10  
House, interior, south room, southeast  
elevation

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_03  
House, southwest & southeast elevations

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_11  
House, interior, main block south room,  
stairs in closet

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_04  
House, main block & southwest hyphen,  
northwest & southwest elevations

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_12  
House, interior, main block, west room vw.  
east

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_05  
House, main block northwest elevation stairs

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_13  
House, interior, main block east room, stairs

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_06  
House, northeast wing & hyphen, & main  
block, northeast & northwest elevations

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_14  
House, interior, southwest hyphen, vw.  
southwest

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_07  
House, shutter hardware - hasp

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_15  
House, interior, southwest hyphen,  
northwest elevation

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_08  
House, shutter hardware - hasp latch

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_16

House, interior, southwest hyphen, northeast elevation

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_25

Pump House, northeast & northwest elevations

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_17

House, interior, southwest wing, vw. west

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_26

Barn, northwest & southwest elevations

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_18

House, interior, southwest wing, mantel detail

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_27

Barn, southwest & southeast elevations

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_19

House, interior, southwest wing, cornice & door architrave

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_28

Barn, southeast elevation, lower story, vw. looking southwest

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_20

House, interior, northeast hyphen, southwest elevation

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_29

Barn, interior, lower story, vw. north

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_21

House, interior, main block west chamber mantel

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_30

Barn, interior, upper story, southeast elevation

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_22

House, interior, main block south chamber mantel

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_23

House, interior, southwest wing, south chamber mantel

HO-0043\_2009-11-17\_24

Smokehouse, southeast & northeast elevations





HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, Southeast Elevation

1/30



HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SAPO

House, Southeast Elevation, portico

2/30





HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

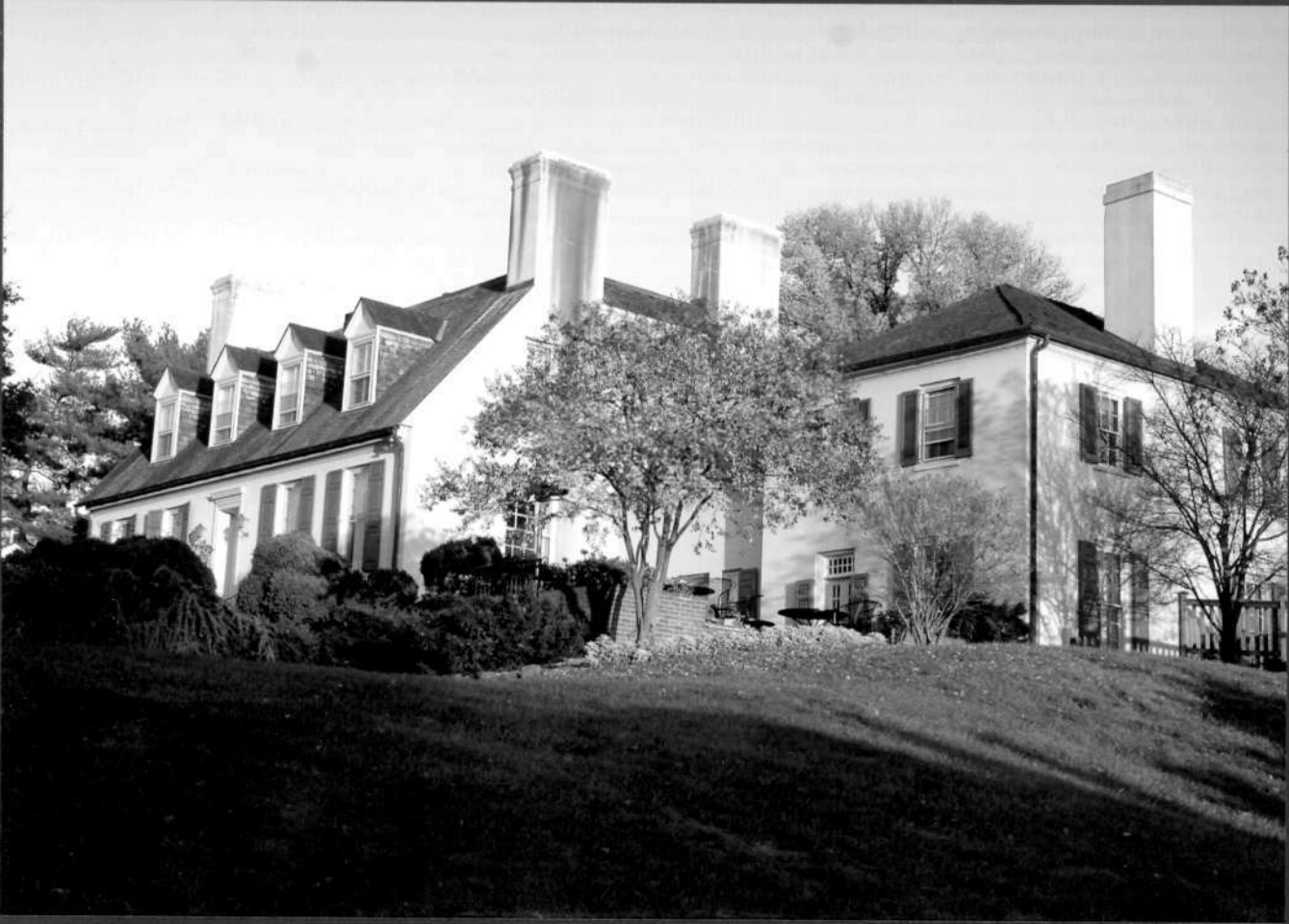
Keri Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, Southwest & Southeast Elevations

3/30



HO-413

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County MD

Kern Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SAPO

House, main block is Southwest Nymphon,  
northwest is Southwest Elevations

4/30



HD-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, main block northwest  
elevation, stairs

5/30





HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, northeast wing & hyphen &  
main block, northeast & northwest  
elevations

6/30



H0-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHFO

House, shutter hardware - hasp

7/30





HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, shutter hardware -  
hasp latch

8/30



H0-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, interior, passage view South

9/30



HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

House, Interior, South Room, Southeast  
Elevation

10/30





HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD CHPO

House, interior, main black south room,  
Stairs in closet

11/30



HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SFFO

House, interior, main block, west  
room view east

12/30





HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, interior, main block east  
room, stairs

13/30



AD-43

"Belmont"

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, interior, southwest hyphen,  
view Southwest

14/30



HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, interior, Southwest hyphen,  
northwest elevation

15/30





HO 43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, interior, southwest hyphen,  
northeast elevation

16/  
30



HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, interior, Southwest wing,  
view west.

17/30



HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

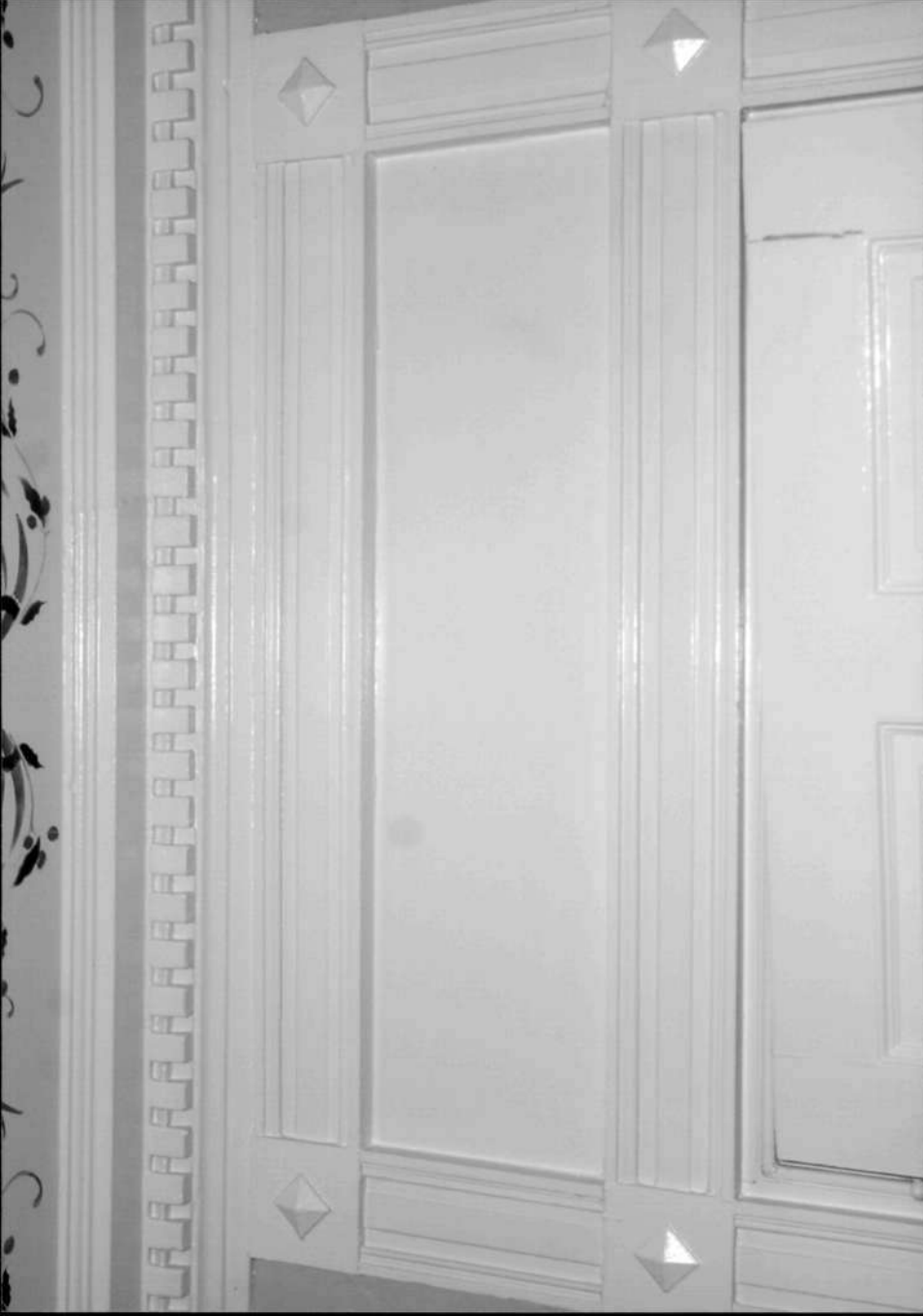
Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, interior, Southwest wing,  
mantel detail

18/30





H0-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, interior, southwest wing,  
cornice & door architrave

19/30



HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, interior, northeast hypen,  
Southwest elevation

20/30



HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHDO

House, interior, main block south  
Chamber master





HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, interior, main black south  
chamber mantel

22/30



HD-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHPO

House, interior, southwest wing,  
south chamber mantel

23/30



HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MDSHPO

Smokehouse, southeast & northeast  
elevations

24/30





HD-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

Pump house, north-east & northwest  
elevations

25/30



HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

Barn, northwest & Southwest Elevations

26/30



HO-43

Belmont

6559 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHPO

Barn, Southeast elevation, lower  
story, view looking southwest

27/30



HO-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

Barn, southeast elevation, lower story,  
view looking southwest

28/30





H0-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Nov 17, 2009

MD SHPO

Barn, interior, lower story, view north

29/30



HD-43

Belmont

6555 Belmont Woods Road

Howard County MD

Ken Short

Nov. 17, 2009

MD SHPO

Barn, interior, upper story,  
Southeast elevation

30/30

HO-43  
BELMONT  
ELKRIDGE  
PUBLIC

CIRCA 1738

BELMONT IS ONE OF HOWARD COUNTY'S EARLIEST STRUCTURES, BEGUN IN 1738 IN ELKRIDGE ON A TRACT PATENTED IN 1695 AS "MOORE'S MORNING CHOICE." BUILT BY CALEB DORSEY, JR., THE "IRON MASTER" AND HIS WIFE, PRISCILLA HILL, BELMONT HAS BEEN OWNED BY SIX GENERATIONS OF DORSEYS. GIVEN TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION IN 1964, IT PRESENTLY PROVIDES A CONFERENCE CENTER FOR THE PURSUIT AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE.

THE LAND SURROUNDING BELMONT IS AS SIGNIFICANT AS THE HOUSE ITSELF; THE SLOPING WOODLAND REMAINING MUCH AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF CALEB DORSEY. ARCHITECTURALLY, IT IS BUILT ON THE FIVE PART PLAN WITH ORIGINAL CENTRAL BRICK STRUCTURE CONNECTED TO EARLY EAST AND WEST WINGS BY HYPHENS. THE CENTRAL STRUCTURE IS COVERED WITH PLASTER, FIVE BAYS WIDE AND ORIGINALLY TWO BAYS DEEP AND ONE AND A HALF STORIES HIGH, WITH PITCHED GABLE ROOF AND GABLED DORMERS. WIDE CHIMNEYS ARE INSET INTO ITS EAST AND WEST WALLS AND A GABLED PORTICO COVERS THE SOUTH ENTRANCE.

RESTORATION AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE HOUSE CREATED A NORTH EXTENSION TO THIS CENTRAL BUILDING BLOCK, PROVIDING FOR A FIVE BAY WIDE, ONE BAY DEEP, CONFERENCE ROOM AND OFFICE. EAST AND WEST CHIMNEYS FOR THIS ADDITION MATCH THE ORIGINAL EAST AND WEST CHIMNEYS. THE GABLED ROOF NOW BECOMES A MANSARD ROOF. DORMERS INSET INTO THE NORTH GABLE MATCH THOSE ON THE SOUTH. AN EAST WING FOR USE AS A SERVICE AREA WAS ALSO ADDED. ALL RESTORATION AND ADDITIONS HAVE BEEN UNUSUALLY WELL INTEGRATED AND SENSITIVELY EXECUTED TO MAINTAIN THE ORIGINAL INTEGRITY OF THE STRUCTURE. A PAIR OF SIGNATURE PLAQUES, EACH BEARING THE INSCRIPTION "CPD 1738", ARE MOUNTED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE DOOR, BENEATH THE PORTICO.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME					
COMMON: Belmont					
AND/OR HISTORIC: "Moore's Morning Choice"					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Belmont Conference Center, 6555 Belmont Woods Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Elkridge					
STATE Maryland		21227		COUNTY: Howard	
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial		<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational		<input type="checkbox"/> Military			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Museum			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Park			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: The Smithsonian Institute					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C.			STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records					
STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Courthouse					
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City			STATE Maryland		21043
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Tax Map 32					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust					
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle					
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis			STATE: Maryland		21401

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered*	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
	(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>The entrance to Belmont is located on Elibank Road about 1/8 mile from the intersection of Montgomery Road. A country road winds through meadow and pasture land to the old home, reputed to be the first home erected at Elkridge Landing.</p> <p>An examination of the stone foundation reveals a tunnel which passed under the east hyphen from the central foyer to the dining room for the use of servants. The walls of the tunnel are laid in English bond. The stone foundation under the dining area matches very well with the stone foundation of the central portion of the building. This along with old ceiling beams found in the east wing of the building give an early date to the east and west wings of the building which are purported to have been completed by 1800. An unusual Roman arch is situated on the east bay of the north wall foundation. Double wooden paneled doors are decorated with six lites fitting into the upper half of the full arched door panel. A diagonally paneled wrought iron grill on the exterior is bolted on the interior. A circular drain is located on the north side or exterior of the door. This door at one time leading to the gardens, now leads into the basement of the first floor conference room. Old log beams are located under the central portion of the house, with brick work used to square up door and cellar window openings.</p> <p>An interesting vault is located on the west basement wall of the conference room with a Mosler Safe Company door, manufactured in Hamilton, Ohio where wine and valuables were kept by the Honorable David K.E. Bruce, statesman and diplomat, who sold Belmont to the Smithsonian Institute to insure its future. An old wooden refrigerator with interior compartments is located in a room east of the vault. Pigs and chickens were slaughtered on the property and stored here to provide food for the household.</p> <p>The original structure of brick covered with plaster, constructed in 1737, was a five bay wide, two bay deep, one and a half story house with pitched gable roof and gabled dormers. Chimneys are inset into the west and east walls.</p> <p>A gabled portico supported by four columns surmounted by a full pediment leads to the central rectangular door flanked by half columns and surmounted by a four lite transom. A pair of signature plaques each bearing the inscription "CPD 1738" are mounted on either side of the entrance door.</p> <p>Three high pitched gable dormers with rectangular casement windows with four lites on each side and shingles on the east and west sides of the dormers are set into the south elevation of the roof at regular intervals.</p> <p>A five part plan now exists and through examination of the foundation was completed at an early date. The plan consists of the original structure at the center, and an east and west wing connected by hyphens.</p> <p>The east and west wings are of identical construction as are the two hyphens which connect the central structure to its east and west wings. The east and west wings are two stories high and 2 bays deep with proportional and symmetrical fenestration. The first floor windows are double-hung and contain nine-over-nine lites with wooden sills and green paneled wooden shutters. The two second story windows are similar and proportional, having six-over-six lites.</p>			

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## B. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☒ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1737

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry  | losophy                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | itarian                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Belmont lies in several areas, architecture, 18th 19th and 20th century history, landscape architecture, and the political scene.

Architecturally Belmont is representative of the federal period which has its roots in the English Renaissance. The east and west wings, though only twostories high are reminiscent of the additions given to Hampton Court in England with hyphens connecting the central structure to its wings. Despite alterations and additions to the original structure, the integrity of Belmont's original plan has been maintained. Built by Caleb Dorsey, "of Belmont" with English brick brought over in his own vessels. This has been covered with plaster. Walls of the hall and the drawing room are panelled in oak. Much of the interior has been rearranged to accommodate its present use as the Smithsonian Institution's Conference Center at Elkridge. The drawing room, however, remains much the same. A stair case in the hall has been rearranged and original bannisters used elsewhere. Again, this rearrangement of the interior has been so carefully and tastefully done that none of the original charm and character of the house is lacking.

Built on the five part plan, an east wing has been added for use as a service wing. This in no way disturbs the composition of the house which due to the topography of the site slopes west to east. The service area creates an anchor and due to the landscaping blends nicely into the plan of the original house. Historically, the property is significant as it is located on one of the first Howard County, then Ann Arundel County land grants. Mordecai Moore directed survey parties and one autumn encamped on the "ridge of elks" on the heights above the Patapsco River. He arose early before anyone else and what he saw is best described in the following quote:

"The mists were rising from the river, and the land sloped away from his feet to a generous horizon on three sides while behind was a little hill which would protect one from the northwest winds. It was an ideal site for a home, and Mordecai Moore was not slow to realize this fact. "Here will I build me a house" he said to his soul and after he had awakened his companions and the sun had climbed up into the sky he set himself to survey a tract of land which included more than ten thousand acres centering at the point whereon he had his camp. This tract he named in his patent papers, approved, in due course by the proprietary "Moore's morning choice." Here, not many years later, Belmont was erected on the site of Moore's morning camp." (5 May 1689 Dr. Moore laid out Belmont)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newman, Harry Wright. Ann Arundel Gentry. Annapolis, 1933.  
 Stein, Charles F., Jr. Origin and History of Howard County, Maryland. Baltimore, 1972.  
 Warfield, J. P. The Founders of A A and Howard, Counties, Maryland. Baltimore 1967.  
 Hammond, John Martin. Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware. Port Washington, NY.  
 Hall of Records, Ann Arundel County-1972, Annapolis, Maryland  
 Hall of Records, Howard County, Maryland  
 "Belmont". Howard County Historic Society, Inc. Vol. I, No.2 (March, 1959)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds		LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:  
 339.22 Acres Tax Map #32  
 Please see 419/339 P. 83

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist		
ORGANIZATION Howard County/ Comprehensive Planning	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER: 3450 Court House Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City,	STATE Maryland	21043

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## Belmont Discription - continued:

A wooden cornice with dentils decorates the hipped roof line. A chimney is inset into the east wall of the west wing and the west wall of the east wing.

The one and a half story, gabled roofed hyphens which connect the east and west wings to the central structure are identical. Furthermore, they have identical north and south elevations which contain rectangular central doors surmounted by four lite transoms and flanked by double-hung windows on each side with four-over-four lites. A shutter is placed on the east side of the east windows and on the west sides of the west windows. A full arched dormer is inset into the gabled roof above the central door, enclosing a full arched fan lite. There is a wooden cornice with dentils decorating the roof line identical to that of the east and west wings.

Additions have been made to this original five part plan of Belmont creating a north extension of the original central portion of the house, five bays wide and one deep for conference room and office and an east wing for use as a service area. Both these additions have been unusually integrated and sensitively added to the original structure. The addition to the north wall is formed by extending the east and west walls to create almost the same dimensions as the original structure. An east and west chimney matches the originals which are inset into the east and west walls. The original gabled roof now becomes a mansard roof. Dormers inset into the north gable match those on the south.

Twelve brick steps covered with flagstone lead up to a grass path which leads to the central doorway and its semicircular stairway entrance. Its rectangular paneled door with projecting flat copper lanterns and two double-hung windows at each side which contain nine-over-nine lites and shutters. Seven steps on the west and seven on the east with a wrought iron railing and newel post lead to the landing which has a wrought iron railing decorated with eleven ovals.

The porch is supported by east and west walls and an elliptical arch on the north wall with keystone.

A water table runs around the extension. Set into the base of this water table are segmental arched cellar windows located under each window. Each contains three vertical lites with wooden sills and iron grates. North of the house are ten steps leading to boxwoods and swimming pool located northwest of the house.

A three bay wide one and a half story east wing addition extends north four bays deep. It has a mansard roof with two dormers on the north elevation, two on the west elevation, all of which have rectangular double-hung windows with six-over-six lites. On the north wall of this addition is centered a casement window with six lites on each side and flanked by a rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lites and green vented wooden shutters. Cellar windows with elliptical arches are located under each window.

The south elevation of this addition contains a dormer window which nestles into the east wall of the east wing. It is covered with shingles, has a flat roof and rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lites.

# Belmont Description - continued:

A dormer window east of this is centered above the two first story windows which are double-hung, rectangular with six-over-six lites and green shutters.

On the west wall of the addition a chimney is inset into the wall between two gabled dormer windows which match those located in the central part of the building.

An entrance door on the south bay has a seven lite transom and french doors with nine lites in the upper half of each door. Five brick steps covered with flagstone are flanked by a wrought iron railing. There is a rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lites and green shutters north of the entrance door.

South of the entrance door is a recessed bay containing two rectangular double-hung windows with six-over-six lites and green shutters.

An old log house with gabled roof stands east of the west wing between which are two additional buildings, one a conical roofed stone building with south entrance. The other a hipped roof, wooden frame building with central chimney.

The door opening of the stone building contains brickwork which squares off the stone work and is similar to work found in the foundation of the central portion of the house. This building may well date circa 1737.

A four paneled rectangular entrance door is centered on the west wall with a small four lite window with wooden sill on the north wall.

A road runs north-south, east of this smaller building. East of this road and south of this building is located the old log house.

Two horse barns are located at some distance east of this log house, one of which is 9 bays long, gabled roofed with dormer windows. Northeast of the barns is located a three bay wide, two bay deep, gambrel roofed residence.

## Interior of Belmont:

The staircase located on the east wall of the dining room, located in the east wing is an original to the house but has been relocated due to interior rearrangement of the house. This general rearrangement of interior space has been necessary due to its present use as a conference center for the Smithsonian Institute.

of the  
wooden  
building

In 1695\* Mordecai Moore obtained a 1360 acre tract of land. Sometime later Caleb Dorsey acquired this land and in 1732 passed it to his son Caleb Dorsey, Jr. CIHT 1 #1/382) Hall of Records, Annapolis. This deed of March 25, 1732 reads:

Caleb Dorsey to:

Caleb Dorsey, Jr., his son

" All those two tracts of land, one called Moore Morning Choyce containing 1368 acres more or less according to the meets and bounds in the original grant of the said tract, and the other tract called Dorsey's Chance containing 200 acres more or less according to the meets and bounds in the original grant of the said tract, which said two tracts adjoin each other and lie in a place called Elk Ridge now in Anne Arundel Co., but formerly in Baltimore Co."

Fox hunting led Caleb Dorsey, Jr. to meet a young lady. He took to hunting in her area on a regular basis. He was purported as not hunting foxes there but "dear". This resulted in his marriage to Priscilla, his securing "Moore's Morning Choice" from his father and building the present Belmont.

The significance of this structure lies in its influence on commerce and industry. In its building certain resources were required and Caleb met the challenge by greatly increasing the large fortune he inherited from his father through his development of the iron ore resources in the area. He and his brother, Edward built a foundry at Avalon on the Patapsco and further south a larger foundry called Hockley in honor of his boyhood home and a third nearer Belmont. Industry and commerce helped to build Belmont and certainly its building was an incentive to industry. Caleb's own ships brought over bricks from England to build Belmont. These were filled with tobacco and later wheat and returned to England. Warehouses at ElkrIDGE landing were a bee hive of activity and the iron furnaces one of the first industries allowed by Great Britain to the colonists. Many of the cannon used by American troops against the British were cast at Caleb Dorsey's iron-works.

The will of Caleb to Edward Dorsey of July 9, 1772 taken from the Hall of Records, Annapolis reads:

WILLS  
38/819

July 9, 1772

Caleb Dorsey to:

Edward Dorsey, his son

" I give and bequeath unto my son Edward Dorsey all my land called Moores Morning Choice Enlarged as also my land called Calebs Pasture, the Valley of Owings, Littleworth, Caleb and Edwards Friendship, Calebs Vineyard.....etc. "

Edward Dorsey was popularly known as "Iron-head Ned." A big-hearted, strong-fisted man, he and his brother Samuel ran his father's mills. His daughter, Priscilla Dorsey inherited Belmont and married Alexander Contee Hanson, whose decendants held the old homestead until 1964. Priscilla's marriage was a romantic one as it was an elopement. The girls guardians in Baltimore would not give their consent to the match. Nevertheless she went to Annapolis with the man she loved and married him there. She was to be the next mistress of Belmont.

The will of 1799 from the Hall of Records, Annapolis reads:

\* Patents No. C #3 Land Office, Annapolis

Wills  
JG 2/73

April 6, 1799

Will of Edward Dorsey of Caleb

I will and direct that all my property not hereafter designated shall go as the Law of the State of Maryland directs.

I do hereby appoint and direct that my real, miscell (?) and personal property shall be divided immediately after my eldest son comes of age.

And I do by this my last will and testament make, ordain, and appoint my beloved wife Elizabeth as Executrise along with Mr. Robert Dorsey my Executor.

Be it known that I Elizabeth Dorsey of Anne Arundel County, widow of Edward Dorsey of Caleb late of said county deceased, do hereby quit claim to the several bequests and devises in the will of my said husband deceased, and do elect in lieu thereof my lower and third part of his estate, both real and personal.

The papers concerning the estate of Belmont to the heirs of Elizabeth Dorsey in 1807 read thus:

heirs of Elizabeth Dorsey:

Caroline Dorsey  
Mary Dorsey  
Hammond Dorsey  
Mrs. Priscilla Hanson  
Hill Dorsey

(Box 83, folder 70)  
Hall of Records, Annapolis

In 1815 the following division of property was noted at the Hall of Records, Annapolis;

Hall of Records, Annapolis

Division of Property

( probate records)

Box 123, folder 3

July 21, 1810

Edward Dorsey of Caleb:

John J. Donaldson and wife Caroline  
Daniel Murray and wife Mary  
Hammond Dorsey-by William A. Dorsey, his guardian  
Alexander Hanson and wife Priscilla  
Hill Dorsey

In 1815-16 Priscilla Hanson acquired Belmont. (WSG 5/85 (A.A. Co) and HBN 103/347 (Howard County). Alexander Contee Hanson the first Hanson to live at Belmont was firm in his convictions and fluent in speech. He served Maryland many years in the United States Senate.

Henry Clay, a good friend, was often a guest at Belmont, and has his favorite place before the fire. His chair is still kept there and the large dining room table where they dined is still in use.

Many parties were given by Priscilla for her husband and his friend from Congress. The Belmont Papers contain a letter written from Alexander to his wife Priscilla, asking her to have six pairs of slippers for himself and guests who would be arriving from Washington, among them was Henry Clay.

On December 18, 1849 Priscilla Hanson bequeathed Belmont to Charles G. Hanson, her son in the following Will:

Wills

WG 1/214

May 26, 1849 (probated Dec. 18, 1849)

Priscilla Hanson to:

Charles G. Hanson, her son

"I give, devise, and bequeath to Thomas Donaldson and George W. Dobbin, and the survivor of them, all my estate and property, real, personal, and mixed: In trust to permit and suffer my son, Charles G. Hanson to take and receive the rents issues and profits thereof, for and during the term of his natural life.

And, after the death of said Charles G. Hanson, in trust to permit and suffer Anna Maria Hanson, wife of said Charles G. Hanson, to take and receive the rents, issues, and profits thereof during her natural life.

And after the death of said of said Charles G. Hanson, in trust to permit and suffer my son, Charles G. Hanson to take and receive the rents, issues and profits thereof during her natural life.

And after the death of said Charles G. Hanson and Anna Maria Hanson, I give, devise, and bequeath the said property to the child or children of said Charles G. Hanson and Anna, and the descendants of such."

In 1917 Mary Graham Bruce acquired Belmont Deed HBN 103/347

Deed

HBN 103/347

April 21, 1917

Reuben D. Rogers, Trustee to:

Mary Graham Bruce

Whereas, by a degree of the Circuit Court for Howard County, in Equity, March 21, 1917, passed in a cause wherein Murray Hanson et al were plaintiffs, and Charles Edward Hanson and Priscilla Hanson were defendants (Equity Docket #4, folio 93), a contract for the sale of the property hereinafter described to Mary Graham Bruce, December 15, 1916, was ratified and confirmed, and Reuben D. Rogers was duly appointed trustee to convey said property to said Mary Graham Bruce.

Now therefore, this deed witnesseth, that said Reuben D. Rogers, Trustee, does grant and convey unto the said Mary Graham Bruce, all the right and title of all the parties to the aforesaid cause, in and to all that parcel of ground situated in the First Election District of said Howard County, constituting the Farm known as "Belmont" on which Annie M. Hanson, Florence C. Hanson, and Murray Hanson until recently resided, and consisting of all that tract of land, which in a cause in the High Court of Chancery of Maryland."

Ownership of Belmont was transferred from the last direct heir to a cousin and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bruce.



On October 3, 1947, Mary Graham Bruce and husband Howard deeded 6.56 acres more or less to Julia Morris Bruce Dobbin in the following deed:

Deed

MWB 200/507

October 3, 1947

Mary Graham Bruce and husband Howard to:  
Julia Morris Bruce Dobbin

All that parcel of land situate in the First Election District of Howard County, bounded and described in accordance with the survey of S.J. Martenet & Co. as follows:

Beginning for the same at a concrete monument marked "1915" ..etc... containing 6.46 acres more or less.

Being part of the land conveyed to Mary Graham Bruce by two deeds: 1) from Reuben D. Rogers, Trustee, April 21, 1917, HBN 103/347, and 2) from Julia M. Bowdin and husband, November 13, 1918, HBN 106/307.

Together with the buildings and improvements thereon.

Together with a right of way 40 ft. wide...etc...

This was to allow their daughter to build a house on the property adjacent to them. In 1949 this property was returned in the following transaction:

Deed

MWB 214/510

December 14, 1949

"Julia Morris Bruce Dobbin and husband Tilton H. Dobbin to:  
Howard Bruce and Mary Graham Bruce

Witnesseth that Julia Morris Bruce Dobbin and husband Tilton H. do hereby grant and convey unto Howard Bruce 2/5 undivided interest in and to the lands herein-after described and hereby conveyed, and unto Mary Graham Bruce the remaining 3/5 undivided interest in and to said lands, which said lands constitute all those two parcels of land situate in the first Election District of Howard Co. and which are described as follows:

First Parcel: Beginning at a concrete monument at the end of the 14th or So. 37<sup>0</sup> East 150 ft. line..etc... containing 4.652 acres more or less, being the same land conveyed by Julia Morris Bruce Dobbin, July 2, 1949, MWB 211/398.

Second Parcel: Beginning at a concrete monument marked "1915"...etc... containing 6.46 acres more or less, being all and the same land which by deed, October 3, 1947, MWB 200/507 was conveyed by Mary Graham Bruce and her husband Howard Bruce."

David Bruce inherited Belmont from his cousin Howard Bruce and in 1964 the Smithsonian Institution acquired the estate situated on 340 acres of fields and woodlands. The following announcement was circulated on March 10, 1967 to heads of bureaus, offices and divisions.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

A N N O U N C E M E N T

March 10, 1967

The Belmont Estate, given to the Smithsonian Institution in 1964, is situated on 340 acres of fields and woodlands near Elkridge, Maryland. It is bordered by the Patapsco River and park, approximately 12 miles from Baltimore, 35 miles from Washington, and eight miles from the Friendship International Airport. The driving time from Washington is about 45 minutes.

Belmont provides a conference center in an historic location with pleasant surroundings for the pursuit and sharing of knowledge in the Institution's varied fields of interest. The estate will provide comfortable residential quarters for as many as 30 guests while 50 persons may be accommodated for lectures and discussions.

Smithsonian units are encouraged to make their needs for the Conference Center known to its Director.

For your guidance in planning use of the center, the following physical arrangements will be made available.

Conference and Meeting Rooms

- A conference room seating 32 persons at tables plus space for a dozen observers. Projection and recording equipment will be provided.
- A reading room which can be used as a lecture hall seating 50 persons.
- A library and a living room for informal discussions.
- Special rooms in the main building and elsewhere on the property for smaller meetings and working sessions.

Living Accommodations

- A dining room seating up to 50 persons.
- A coffee lounge and an adjoining garden terrace for guests before and after work sessions and meals.
- Sleeping accommodations for up to 22 guests with a planned increase to provide quarters for an additional eight persons.

Requests for information on Belmont's facilities and charges and inquiries regarding reservations should be address to:

Mr. Hugh Latham, Director  
Belmont Conference Center  
Room 318, Smithsonian Building, extension 5866

or

Belmont, Elkridge, Maryland, area code 301, 796-4300

Arrangements for overnight conferences including payment of Smithsonian participants expenses (conference fees, subsistence, and accommodations) will be by contract arrangement between the Smithsonian activity sponsoring or participating in the conference and the Belmont Center. Smithsonian participants will be on travel orders but may claim only transportation expenses. Advice on preparing contracts may be obtained from the Chief, Supply Division.

S. Dillon Ripley  
Secretary

DISTRIBUTION: Heads of bureaus, offices, and divisions



### Significance

North of the house are terraced gardens and hugh boxwoods. On a distant hill north of the house is a family burial ground where generations of Dorseys and Hansons lie buried.

Six generations of Dorseys have owned this land.

The land surrounding Belmont is as significant as the house itself. The sloping woodland remaining much as it was in the day of Caleb Dorsey and Avalon Iron Works.

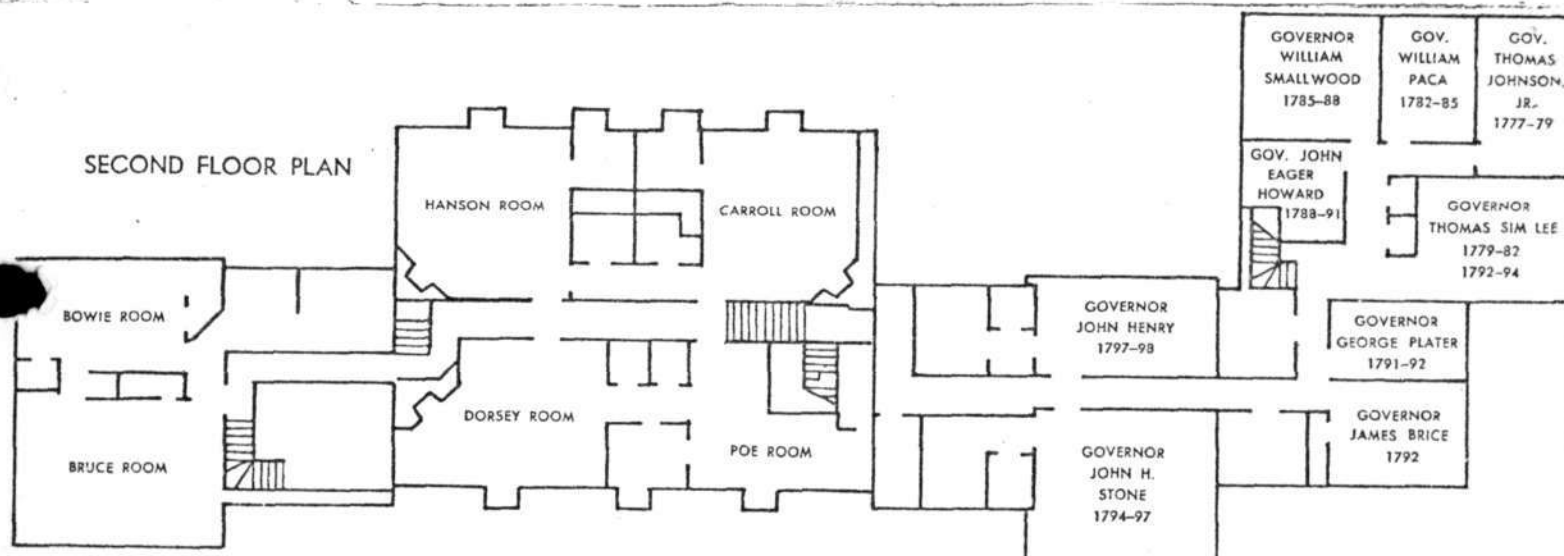
In conclusion we see that Belmont had much to do with the political life of its day and has been the home of two senators from Maryland, Howard Bruce and Alexander Contee Hanson. It now serves the nation as a place of retreat for special conference groups, maintaining its original role as a house open to the visitor.

# BELMONT

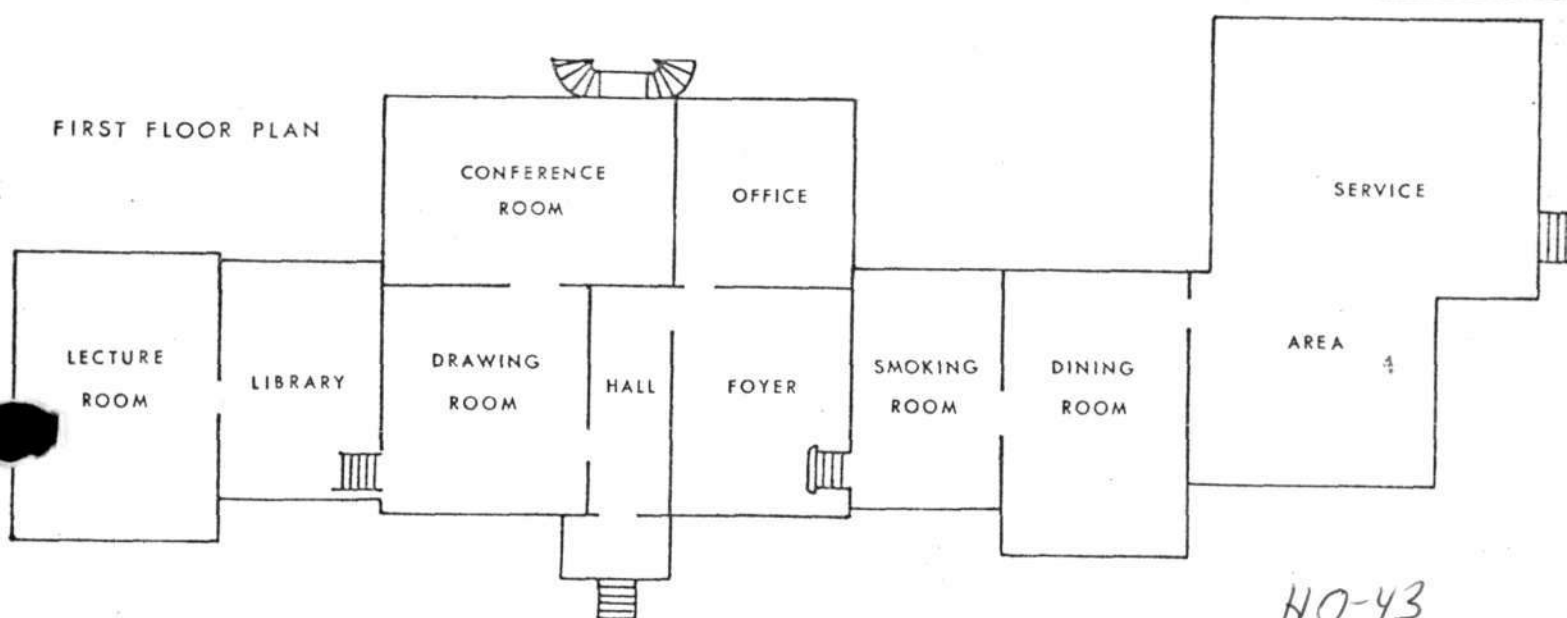


## The Smithsonian Institution's Conference Center at Elkridge, Maryland

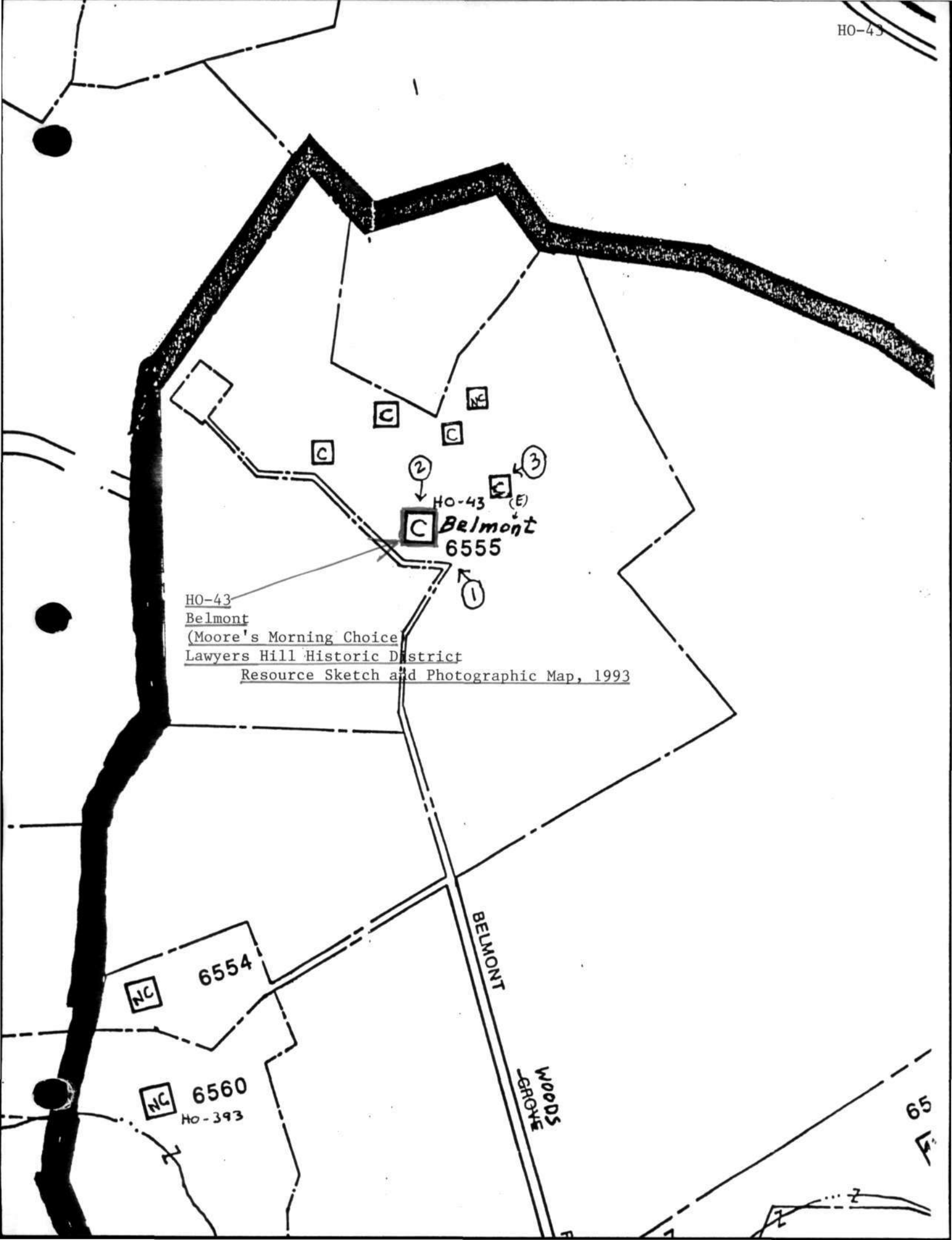
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



HO-43



HO-43  
Belmont  
(Moore's Morning Choice)  
Lawyers Hill Historic District  
Resource Sketch and Photographic Map, 1993

HO-43  
**Belmont**  
6555

NC 6554

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BELMONT

WOODS GROVE

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